



Tomorrow

- Trooping the Colour
Guide to the pomp and circumstance
Brecon poll
Finding the voters out in the hills
Castles in the air
Lured by the Lorelei, cruising the Rhine
Testing time
Wimbledon warm-up at Queen's Club: second day's play at Headingley

Portfolio

Yesterday's Times Portfolio prize of £2,000 was won by a London reader. Portfolio list page 12; how to play information services back page.

Student purge ordered

A radical overhaul of the 14,000-strong Federation of Conservative Students to root out rowdy and intolerant elements was ordered by party chiefs last night.

Reagan to seek more Contra aid

President Reagan is expected to press Congress to provide military funds for Nicaragua's Contra rebels, after a victory in securing "humanitarian" aid.

Beating the bureaucrats

Diane Munday was convinced she could help her husband, crippled by a stroke, to walk again - if she could bring him home from hospital.

Nato rethink

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Lobby register

MPs want journalists and other outsiders who work at the Commons to register their commercial interests to prevent abuse of their privileges.

Space task

Britain's first astronaut, Squadron Leader Nigel Wood, will be examining the effects of weightlessness in space when he joins a US space shuttle crew next June.

Rush for Abbey

Abbey Life's share issue, worth more than £241 million, was oversubscribed 19 times and only about a third of the 375,000 applications may be allotted any shares.

Bruno's chance

Frank Bruno may meet Larry Holmes in London in September if he beats Anders Eklund, of Sweden, on June 25.

FOCUS

The Royal Navy retains its vital roles despite defence cuts - an eight-page Bicentennial Special Report examines the Senior Service in the 1980s Page 31-38.

Table with 2 columns: News, Reports, etc. and 2 rows of items like Home News, Overseas, Arts, etc.

Thatcher agrees to spell out benefit gainers and losers

The Prime Minister yesterday conceded that the Government would provide a full cost breakdown on the social security review changes, indicating those who would gain, in the final White Paper to be published in the autumn.

Israel claims spy plane shot down

Israel claimed yesterday it had shot down a pilotless Syrian spy plane in the region of the Israeli-Lebanon border. The terse official communiqué gave no further details except that the incident occurred at noon.

Aslef seeks talks over BR's court threat

The train-drivers' union, Aslef, belied its militant reputation yesterday by seeking a meeting with British Rail to discuss the board's threat of court action, while simultaneously setting in train its first-ever ballot on industrial action.

£16m windfall for Church of Scotland

The Church of Scotland expects to pick up £16 million next week when Christian Salvesen, one of Britain's largest private companies, is floated on the stock market.

\$550m fake credit card racket smashed

The gangs had printing plants making thousands of fake cards which were embossed with genuine numbers. Many of the numbers were taken from credit card counterfoils in New York restaurants.

Mexico and Britain sign £90m deals

The British and Mexican governments last night confirmed that they had signed agreements on trade and investment worth £90m during the three-day state visit of President Miguel de la Madrid, who leaves today.

Pakistan denies torturing army officers

The Pakistan Embassy in London issued an official denial yesterday that army officers accused of conspiring against the military regime of General Zia had been tortured.



Something to shout about: Allott has Wood leg-before, the first wicket to fall in the first Test match at Headingley. John Woodcock, page 24

French offer cheap electricity to UK

France is prepared to sell Britain the equivalent of the entire output from two of its nuclear power stations at a price that cannot be matched by even the most efficient of Britain's big coal-fired stations.

NUM in joint fight call

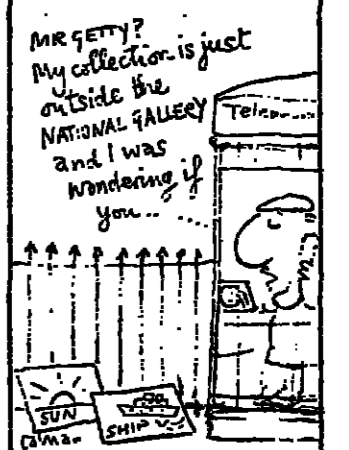
Miners leaders hope to join forces with the pit deputies' union to fight the National Coal Board's programme of pit closures and job losses.

Follow the Leader

Advertisement for Bell's Scotch Whisky featuring a bottle image and text 'the quality scotch'.

National gallery given £50m by John Paul Getty

The reclusive US multimillionaire Mr Paul Getty Jr became Britain's biggest individual patron of the arts yesterday when he promised the National Gallery £50 million.



MR GETTY? My collection is just outside the NATIONAL GALLERY... and I was wondering if you...

Yachts face lights fee

Amateur yachtsmen could soon have to pay towards the upkeep and running costs of Britain's lighthouses.

Reagan to seek more Contra aid

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PARLIAMENT JUNE 13 1985

Advice rejected • Vickers contract • Bradford fire

Serps plan: Ingenious or burglary?

PENSIONS Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister indicated during questions in the Commons that the proposal to end the state earnings-related pension scheme was made in the face of expert advice to the contrary...

Mrs Thatcher: As I made clear in my letter to Mr Kinnoch, the purpose of issuing a Green Paper was to set out the main themes and principles of our proposed new strategy for social security.

Acquiesce, so the whole country can make a judgement on the matter to the Government. Mrs Thatcher: Mr Lyon was an expert adviser. The Government does not always have to take the advice of experts.

Dr David Owen, Leader of the Social Democrats: As 'serps' now seem to be the right way to finance the Government's proposals in the Green Paper, the old scheme which would have been a burden on our children and grandchildren.

proposed that Serps should be retained but modified and that its ultimate cost should be reduced? Will she admit that this option has not been discussed by Mr Norman Fowler's advisory team?

Exasperation over German veto on EEC cereal prices

MR MICHAEL JOPPING, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said he shared the Opposition's exasperation at the EEC Council of Agriculture Ministers this week who used their veto against a cut in cereal prices.

Mr Jopling: Yes, I share his exasperation with the attitude of the German delegation. That clearly did make the rest of us appear to be spineless in view of the way the German delegation was prepared to use the veto in order to block a sensible decision.

Commentary Geoffrey Smith A stage has been reached in the dialogue between the British and Irish Governments over Northern Ireland where the principal purpose of seeking an agreement is to avoid having to acknowledge disagreement.

Why talks with Sinn Fein are ruled out

ULSTER If British ministers agreed to meet representatives of Sinn Fein, it would not turn the IRA into decent law-abiding citizens, Mr Douglas Haig, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during question time in the Commons.

murder of three councillors in Armagh, there have been murders of members of the House and a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, that measures have been taken to protect other councillors in the province or council officers, as well as workers employed by councils?

New armoured repair and recovery vehicle for Challenger tanks

DEFENCE The Government intends to place a contract with Vickers Defence Systems for the development and initial production of a new armoured repair and recovery vehicle for Challenger tanks.

running at over 50 per cent, while the properties of those placed on a cost plus basis was only 7 per cent of the total. Overall, the total value of work placed last year as a result of competition rose by some four to five percentage points.

opportunities to our aerospace industries. It was the most cost effective deterrent that they could buy and was perfectly manageable within our planned overall defence expenditure.

Control of police another problem

Control of the police presents another problem. There is also still deadlock between the political parties of Northern Ireland over their terms for participating in the assembly, and therefore no prospect of securing the return of the SDLP.

Above all, there is the familiar difficulty that the political constraints on Dr Carron FitzGerald appear to be such as to make it impossible for him to agree to anything of real substance that would be acceptable to the Protestant community in the north.

Benefit fraud squad to concentrate on anonymous tip-offs

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent The social security fraud squad, the 175-strong Specialist Claims Control, is to concentrate more on anonymous tip-offs.

The decision to concentrate on anonymous tip-offs was announced by Mrs Judith Knight, the group secretary for DHSS staff in the Society of Civil and Public Servants.

British astronaut to conduct experiments

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor Experiments on the medical effects of weightlessness and protecting sensitive equipment from hostile conditions in space are among the research projects in which Britain's first astronaut, Squadron Leader Nigel Wood, will be involved.

A study into the changes in co-ordination of head and eye movements which occur during adaptation to the microgravity of spaceflight has been designed by Dr G. R. Barnes and Dr A. J. Benson.

£2m bail in bullion case

Three men arrested earlier this year on charges connected with the £26 million Brinks-Mat gold bullion robbery were granted bail by magistrates at Lambeth yesterday on condition that they provide sureties and cash deposits of nearly £2,000,000.

Random car halts lawful

The police are fully empowered to stop motorists at random and subsequently prosecute them under the drink-driving laws, the High Court ruled yesterday.

Fortes labelled in claim that they insulted hotelier

The hotel and catering chain owner, Lord Forte, and his son, Mr Rocco Forte, won undisclosed libel damages from the High Court yesterday over allegations that they were rude to a member of staff.

Press adverts indicate job creation

PM'S QUESTIONS The eight-page job advertisements supplement in other newspapers was a sign of increased job creation, according to Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister.

Does she agree that this is a sign of a buoyant and expanding economy? Mrs Thatcher replied: I believe it is a sign that more jobs are being created than are being lost.

Police 'well treated'

The police had been extremely well treated by the Government, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, told the Commons. Spending on the Metropolitan Police had increased from £21 million in 1978-79 to £76.3 million in 1983-84.

Safety check on chemical

Mr David Nellist (Coventry South-East, Lab) urged the Prime Minister to order a safety check on a chemical known as 2,4,5-T.

Wrong at this stage to end no-jury courts

So long as intimidation of jurors was a problem such as it has been in Northern Ireland, so long would it be rash to suppose one could reconcile justice with restoration, untrammelled, of the jury system.

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Debate on Government motion to approve the White Paper on airports.

Thin end of the wedge

If this course were followed, it would be logical to deal with Northern Irish legislation at Westminster on the same basis as Scottish legislation - a move towards the United Kingdom of the province within the United Kingdom that would be pleasing to Unionists.

Both parties would be likely to see it as an example of precisely what they are determined to avoid: the government of Britain being disrupted for the sake of Northern Ireland.

Random car halts lawful

The judges removed any remaining doubts that motorists could be stopped only if an officer had "reasonable suspicion" that an offence was being committed.

Thin end of the wedge

Yet if agreement in the Anglo-Irish dialogue has its difficulties, disagreement holds its terrors. One only has to think of what a mess Mrs Thatcher made of the press conference after she and Dr FitzGerald had got on rather well at the High Court.

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Laboratory attendant earned £7,000. Mothe. British scientists make cancer discovery.

Lavatory attendant earned £17,000

A lavatory attendant in the London borough of Southwark earned £17,000 last year, according to a programme by London Weekend Television to be screened tonight (Our Local Government Correspondent writes).

National Front student is allowed to defer exams

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Patrick Harrington, the National Front activist, is being allowed to take his final examinations at the Polytechnic of North London one term later than normal because of disruption to his studies.



Mr Harrington, whose studies were disrupted

Misdirected case of lugworm digging

A case against three sea anglers accused of disturbing birds in a nature reserve of international importance by digging for lugworm bait came to a sudden end yesterday after magistrates realized it was in the wrong court.



The West German Agriculture Minister, Herr Ignaz Kiechle, explaining his use of the veto on EEC cereal prices.

EEC whip-round necessary to meet new budget

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

Six months late the EEC has at last been given a budget for 1985. The European Parliament, which threw the original one out last December, accepted one yesterday which will cost £16,200 million - some £1,120 million above the present legal ceiling.

The extra money will have to be found by a non-repayable whip-round among member states. Britain's share of this will be about £255 million, although officials estimate that the actual cost to the British economy, after rebates and payments are taken into account, will be no more than £40 million.

Benefit paid in wages rather than by DHSS giro Mothers will lose under credit plan

Because the credit should offer appreciably more than present to families in work than to unemployed families, it will provide incentives to take low-paid work. Employers may encourage people to apply for the credit because low wages will appear to be boosted by the higher take-home 'pay' the benefit provides and that might increase the numbers taking the benefit.

The Green Paper only hints, but that money is likely to come by not increasing child benefit fully in line with inflation. Each 10p by which the £6.85 benefit fails to rise with prices saves about £50 million - enough quite quickly to finance a more generous family credit.

But part of the argument for replacing the old child tax allowance, which generally went to men, with child benefit paid to the mothers, was that it was more likely to be spent on children than on drink and horses. Women in poor families are thus likely to see money transferred back from the purse to the wallet by both the family credit and child benefit changes.

school meals to children not on FIS or supplementary benefit. The Child Poverty Action Group says 300,000 children receive such meals. While some are likely to be taken into Family Credit, others will not.

Sri Lankans to study Indian constitution

Colombo - A team of Sri Lankan lawyers, headed by President Jayewardene's brother, Mr H. W. Jayewardene QC, leaves for India tomorrow to study the working of India's constitution, with special emphasis on the relationship between the centre and the states, and the powers granted to states and union territories (our correspondent writes).

High US and EEC subsidies criticized UN body attacks world food dumping

Paris The dumping of world markets of highly-subsidized cereals and other agricultural products was criticized severely yesterday by the UN World Food Council in a communiqué at the end of its four-day ministerial meeting in Paris.

The communiqué paid tribute to generous international efforts to meet the crisis, but stressed that extraordinary and sustained international support was still needed to rebuild affected African countries' economies.

It also stressed the need for "an improved and more equitable international economic, trade and financial environment, with adequate provisions to reduce trade protectionism substantially, resolve the debt problem of developing countries... and improve international monetary stability".

Thin end of the wedge... If this course were taken it would be logical to expect Northern Irish legislation in Westminster to be as Scottish legislation in Edinburgh towards the close of the year of the province of Northern Ireland being dissolved.

Advertisement for 'MAGNETS USED TO KILL TUMOURS' featuring a woman's portrait and text describing a medical treatment.

Advertisement for 'Magnets tackle child cancer' with text: 'A new treatment using magnets to remove tumour cells from brain marrow has been successfully used for the first time on a girl aged five.'

Advertisement for 'Cancer ward saved by charity' with text: 'The ward was saved by the generosity of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.'

Advertisement for 'cancer fight' with text: 'The scientists have discovered that it may also be possible to find ways of stimulating cancer to develop.'

Form for 'HELP US TURN THIS COUPON INTO THE NEXT CUTTING.' with fields for name, address, and donation details.

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Contra aid win foreshadows Reagan bid for military funds

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

After a year of extraordinary political manoeuvring, President Reagan has won approval from the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives to give \$27 million (£21 million) of "humanitarian" aid to the guerrillas seeking the overthrow of the Sandinista Government of Nicaragua.

It is a major personal victory for Mr Reagan, who can now be expected to try to persuade Congress to provide military funds.

The money will be released in three equal instalments over the next nine months. The Intelligence Agency and the Defence Department have been specifically ordered not to interfere in its distribution.

"Humanitarian" aid is defined as food, clothing and medicine, and the Red Cross or some other neutral agency will be invited to distribute it. Lorries, guns and ammunition are banned.

Nearly 700 people were arrested in dozens of cities during demonstrations against the Administration's anti-Sandinista policy.

Nicaragua, a poor country the size of England and Wales, is beating back the US-supported guerrillas on its northern border, and is pounding the smaller guerrilla forces on the southern border. The success of the offensive, which began more than a month ago, helped to tip the scales in the House of Representatives on Wednesday night.

The vote was 248 to 184 - a margin that surprised and delighted the Administration. Seventy-three Democrats voted for the aid. The House also gave approval for the CIA to exchange information with the Contras - a provision designed

to open up the flow of intelligence.

That is a major boost for the rebels, whose increasing effectiveness is blamed in large measure on lack of information about Sandinista troop deployments. The US almost certainly flies reconnaissance missions over Nicaragua from its base of Palmerola in Honduras.

The Republican-controlled Senate last week approved \$38 million of non-military aid over the next two years and authorized the CIA to distribute the money. The differences will have to be resolved in a House-Senate conference - the stage for another battle by the Administration to get approval for the CIA to distribute the "humanitarian" aid. Democratic leaders privately believe that the CIA cannot be trusted to use the funds for strictly non-military purposes.

In Managua, the Government-run Voice of Nicaragua radio said the House decision would bring only "more massacres, more suffering for the people". Several dozen US citizens living in Nicaragua chanted protests outside the American Embassy.

Two months ago the House narrowly rejected any aid for the rebels. The change of heart came in part because of political pressure on southern Democrats, whose home states fear a massive influx of refugees from central America. The visit to Moscow in April by President Ortega had a big impact on Congressional opinion. And there is a real fear that the Democrat Party is being viewed as "soft on communism".

Leading article, page 15

Man behind the scenes

Dual triumph for a low-key negotiator

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

This has been a good week for Mr Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's National Security Adviser. It was Mr McFarlane who was the principal architect of President Reagan's decision to adhere to the Salt agreement for the time being in order to ease US-Soviet tensions and give the arms control process a chance - a decision that was hailed by European allies and most members of Congress.

Mr McFarlane was also largely responsible for shaping the compromise and spearheading the White House's lobbying effort that resulted in the House of Representatives' turn-around decision to aid the Nicaraguan rebels.

The two events are a dual triumph for the quiet behind-the-scenes negotiating style of the man who has recently emerged as the driving force behind the Administration's foreign and defence policy.

When he took over from Mr William Clark two years ago, Mr McFarlane was clearly a compromise choice between administration conservatives who were lobbying for Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick and moderates who wanted to keep the controversial former ambassador to the United Nations out of such a politically sensitive job.

He was considered a technocrat who would be content to remain quietly in the background and exert little influence on the formulation of policy. It was assumed that Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, and Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, would be left to pursue their rival ambitions to take over foreign and defence policy during Mr Reagan's second term.

However, Mr McFarlane - a former Marine who is invariably referred to by his nickname "Bud" - now rivals and sometimes even overrules them. On occasions he has taken a middle way that takes account of their frequently opposing points of view. But there have been times when he has knocked their heads together and pushed through his own ideas.

On the whole, he has tended to side with Mr Shultz. They share similar views about the



Mr McFarlane: Driving force in White House.

Spy trial told of car sex

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Richard Miller, the first Federal Bureau of Investigation agent ever charged with espionage, testified that he took an accused Soviet spy, Svetlana Ogorodnikova, to the beach at Malibu and then had sex with her in a parked car just a stone's throw from the FBI headquarters.

Mr Miller, aged 48, a father of eight, was called as the US Government's key witness on the 21st day of testimony in the spy trial of Mrs Ogorodnikova and her husband, Nikolai. The Russian couple are being tried separately and Mr Miller will go on trial when the Ogorodnikovs' case is over.

Mr Miller was ordered to testify by the judge after promises that his statements as a witness for the prosecution will not be used against him.

Mr Miller admitted he first met Mrs Ogorodnikova in May 1984 and a few days later had intercourse with her in his car. The prosecution questioned Mr Miller in an attempt to show that he had serious financial problems when he allegedly tried to sell FBI documents for \$65,000 (£52,000) in cash and gold.

After their first meeting at which she bought him lunch, Mr Miller admitted he did not tell his superiors that he had sex with her. "I call that stupid", he admitted.



Police surround protesters outside the State Department in Washington displaying the names of Nicaraguans they say were killed by Contras.

LeGrange scorns MPs' calls to quit

From Michael Horusby Cape Town

Demands for the resignation of Mr Louis Le Grange, the South African Minister of Law and Order, were made here yesterday in the House of Assembly, the white chamber of Parliament.

MPs of the Progressive Federal Party, the main opposition in this house, led by its spokesman on police affairs, Mrs Helen Suzman, said Mr Le Grange must accept responsibility for the "ghastly happenings" of March 21, when 20

blacks were shot dead and 27 wounded near Uitenhage in the Eastern Cape.

"A total lack of control and discipline" was clear among police, she said. Other PFP MPs accused Mr Le Grange of blundering ineptitude, which had led to a calculated act of violence.

The charges were levelled during a debate on the report of the Kannevreyer Commission into the shootings tabled on Tuesday.

Mr Le Grange was severely taken to task for having told

Parliament on March 21 that police had been surrounded and pelted with sticks, stones and petrol bombs, a version of events which the commission established was totally inaccurate.

Opposition MPs said he had either been hoodwinked by senior police or was himself party to falsehood.

Mr Le Grange showed no inclination to accept the PFP advice, saying it was up to President Botha to decide who he wanted in his cabinet.

19 hand in resignations to Soares

Portugal's 19 Social Democrat ministers and secretaries of state handed in their resignations yesterday to the Socialist Prime Minister, Dr Mario Soares.

They had announced their intention to do so last week, when their new leader Senhor Anibal Cavaco Silva, withdrew the party from the coalition Government, but held their hand until the agreement to enter the EEC was signed.

The Social Democrats have agreed to stay at their posts until a new government is formed or Dr Soares resigns. Dr Soares met President Eanes yesterday to discuss his Government's future.

Trains collide

Delhi (Reuters) - At least 35 people died and 100 were injured when two trains collided at Agra, near the Taj Mahal, the Press Trust of India reported. At least 40 passengers on the Chhatrisgarh Express were in a serious condition and others were trapped in the wreckage after the collision with a goods train.

Nato choice

Mons (Reuters) - Nato's Supreme Commander in Europe, General Bernard Rogers, announced that President Reagan had nominated US Air Force General John Chain as his Chief of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe. General Chain is a bureau director at the State Department.

Captive couple

Islamabad (Reuters) - An Australian couple, Robert and Jenny Williamson, kidnapped by Baluchi tribesmen in Pakistan more than three weeks ago, are being held in Afghanistan, a senior official in Quetta said. The kidnapers were ready to free them, but it could take several days.

Iran bombed

Baghdad (AFP) - Iraqi planes carried out six more attacks in Iran after two raids on Tehran near midnight that left two people dead and seven injured. The latest targets included the cities of Kerend, Bakhtaran and Dezful.

Beaches closed

Warsaw (Reuters) - Industrial pollution which could cause skin disease has forced closure for the summer of 10 beach resorts on Poland's Baltic coast near Gdansk, the Warsaw newspaper Zycie Warszawy reported.

Finger appeal

Tel Aviv (Reuters) - Israeli radio stations broadcast urgent appeals for a man to reclaim a finger he lost in a work accident. The man was taken to hospital in Haifa while his fellow-workers, who found the finger, took it to another hospital 12 miles away. By the time contact was made with the first hospital, the man had left.

Gandhi hits at Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

From Michael Binyon Washington

In an unusually outspoken condemnation of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the Moscow-backed Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, India's Prime Minister, yesterday told a joint session of Congress that outside interference and intervention jeopardized the stability and security of the region.

"We are opposed to both foreign presences and pressures. The one is advanced as a justification for the other. We stand for a political settlement in Afghanistan that ensures sovereignty, integrity, independence and non-aligned status. And enables the refugees to return to their homes in safety and honour."

Without naming the Soviet Union, he said such a settlement could only come through dialogue and a realistic consensus among the parties directly concerned. India fully supported the initiative of the UN Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, in this direction.

Afghanistan is a main point of disagreement between India and the US, and has taken up much of the discussions Mr Reagan has had with President Reagan and Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State. Washington has pressed India to take a tougher line on the Soviet intervention.

In his address Mr Gandhi dwelt pointedly on points of agreement - shared ideals, the conviction that democracy was the best guarantor of development, and the commitment to a free press.

But he underlined worries about American policy: the "sad erosion" he saw in the commitment to international economic co-operation and the erection of trade barriers, the "new dimensions" to the arms race. India had "deep reservations" about the militarization of space.

Assad's belligerent vow to crush Israel

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

While Shia Muslim militiamen yet again tried to storm their way towards the Sabra refugee camp in Beirut, Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan yesterday called for an Arab summit conference to end the fighting, condemning this week's hijacking and destruction of a Jordanian passenger jet as part of a conspiracy against the Jordan PLO alliance.

While the Crown Prince may well have been right, he discreetly failed to suggest just who might have been behind such a plot - the Jordanians in fact suspect the Syrians - and the only decisive act taken by the Jordanians in response to the hijacking has been the suspension of its airline's flights to Beirut in Damascus, however, a quite different mood prevailed yesterday in the wake of an unexpected and militant speech by President Hafez Assad.

Without mentioning what Crown Prince Hassan referred to as the "aggression" against the Palestinian camps in Beirut, President Assad promised that Syria would "fight (the Israelis) everywhere, we shall crush them in the end and Israel will not achieve victory."

In a mood of self-congratulation that went far beyond historical facts, the President also claimed that "the great people of Syria played the main role in defeating Israel in Lebanon". On the face of it, this was not the sort of suggestion calculated to appeal to the

hundreds of Lebanese Shia Muslim guerrillas who created such havoc among Israel's army in southern Lebanon.

The Israeli-trained gunmen who kidnapped 21 Finnish UN soldiers in southern Lebanon last week still showed no sign yesterday of releasing them, despite optimistic noises from the Defence Ministry in Helsinki, that they may soon be freed.

UN officers yesterday met members of the "South Lebanon Army" militia held by Shia Muslim gunmen near Tyre. The "SLA" commander has demanded his own meeting with the men as a condition of the Finns' release, but there is still no sign that this will be granted.

It is, of course, easy for Syria and the Lebanese Government to concentrate on these issues just now, ignoring the far more important collapse of Syrian policy in Beirut symbolized by the camp fighting yesterday in which Shia Muslims again used rocket launchers against the Palestinian defenders.

At least 350 people have been killed in the camps in the past 25 days.

Even in the hills above the Lebanese capital, fighting continues between Druze and Christian militiamen. The body of the latest victim of this battle, a French truce observer, was flown home to France yesterday. French officers escorted the coffin of Captain Jean-Pierre Fugier to the airport, protected by armoured vehicles of the Lebanese Army's Sixth Brigade.

Dead Sea canal shelved

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Israel has announced the suspension of its grandiose scheme to channel Mediterranean sea water to the Dead Sea and to exploit the difference in altitude to generate electric power.

Mr Moshe Shahal, the Minister of Energy, told a press conference in Jerusalem on Tuesday that the project would

cost twice as much as originally estimated and was no longer considered economically feasible. He said the Treasury was unable to find a source to continue funding the operation.

The minister, a leader of the Labour Party, pointed out that the dubious venture had been started by the Likud Administration

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Four days of curfew in Ahmedabad Army halts mob killings

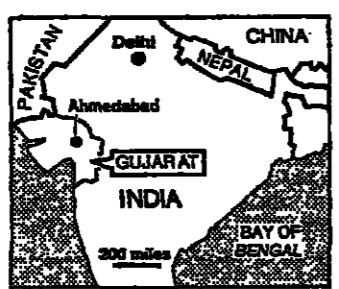
From Michael Hamliya, Ahmedabad

A noise like the agitated twittering of an unsettled swarm of starlings marked a break in the indefinite curfew stamped on the walled city of Ahmedabad as the women, but only the women, were allowed out of their houses to buy food for two meagre hours.

For four days the Indian Army has kept the inhabitants under curfew to try to stop them hacking each other to death with bludgeons, or burning each other's houses with petrol-soaked rags. In the narrow streets of Dabgarwadi several squads of soldiers lounge in trucks and jeeps in an enclave of Hindu houses adrift in an otherwise Muslim sea.

The houses are tall and elegant, impressively carved from an era when Ahmedabad's old city was where the richer merchants lived instead of in the sprawling suburbs across the Sabarmati river bed. Here last weekend a family of eight Hindu drummers locked themselves in against the threat of a Muslim mob. Unable to get past the locked doors when their house was set alight, they all died.

Ahmedabad has a long history of inter-communal intolerance, and though the present spasm of violence has technically nothing to do with the political agitation which has been continuing in Gujarat state (of which this is the largest city), the demonstrations, general strikes, marches and disturbances have encouraged hooligans and those with old scores to settle.



But Gujarat is still a state of merchants and moneymakers and the more advanced castes, the priestly Brahmins, the land owning Patels and the businessmen Banias are rapidly tiring of unsettled times, with factories closed, hotels empty, transport halted and death and destruction in the streets.

More than 160 people have died violently since the agitation started in March. It began in protest against the announced state government education and in Government jobs to the backward castes, the leatherworkers, the washermen and the honey-collectors, for example. Gujarat is unusual, too, in that the warrior caste, the Kshatriyas, who provide the Hindu royal families, are regarded as backward.

But a citizens' committee has now been organized to try to bring peace. They have started trying to end the agitation by getting both sides, the government and the protesters, who are mostly medical and engineering students, to back down.

The government, led by a wily Congress politician, Mr

Madhavsinh Solanki, the first Chief Minister in the state to have come from the backward castes, has agreed to shelve the increase in reserved places until a national consensus, promised by the Prime Minister.

Mr Solanki has also agreed to appoint a judicial inquiry into the disturbance - which nearly gets him off a number of political hooks. It enables him to look magnanimous to the citizens' committee, though the inquiry is something that he would have to have created at some time, since the police are unlikely to be best people to investigate the riots. They took part in several violent incidents and are blamed for having caused others.

It also enables him to mitigate police anger at the inquiry by allowing him to say he was compelled to order it.

The students are unwilling to call their agitation off at present, saying that they want the increased reservation withdrawn, not merely shelved, and want more reassurance about the inquiry. There is not, though, an unbridgeable gap between the two sides, and given goodwill it could be closed.

The Congress politicians, however, fear that it may not be as simple as that. They see the hand of a number of opposition leaders behind the students, disappointed at the overwhelming victory of Congress in the Assembly elections. They fear the agitators will not be satisfied until the Government is overturned.



Mr Wladyslaw Frasyniuk listening to legal arguments in the court which he accused yesterday of acting under orders from the Polish authorities.

Craxi on the spot over Eureka

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Eureka high-technology project so dear to President Mitterrand of France seems to have been the main difficulty during his talks in Florence yesterday with Signor Bettino Craxi, Italy's Prime Minister.

The meeting was technically part of the six-monthly meetings between leaders of the two countries. But this time had a much weightier significance because they come so near to the European summit, which convenes in Milan at the end of the month, and which marks the close of the Italian presidency of the EEC.

Signor Craxi is known to want the summit to show substantial progress on two issues which he sees to be vital.

The first is a fresh stimulus to the political unity of the Community, which might mean re-drafting, replacing or simply reviewing the Treaty of Rome.

The second is progress towards peace talks in the Middle East, based on a meeting involving Jordan and the Palestinians on one hand and Israel on the Other.

On these points, Italy and France, are reasonably close. Eureka places Signor Craxi uncomfortably close to the need for a choice.

The French plan is seen here to be an alternative to the US Star Wars project, aimed at technological cooperation for the application of peaceful means of joint research.

President Mitterrand has tried to tone down the idea of an ultimatum. In an interview in the weekly magazine *L'Europe* he said: "My concept is that each country, for example Italy will not have to decide whether or not to belong to Eureka, but to take part or not in this or that particular programme, contributing men and resources to it."

Guerrilla clashes kill 40 in Colombia

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogota

Colombia has renewed efforts to restore a ceasefire pact with the subversive April 19 Movement (M19) after an outbreak of fierce fighting between guerrillas and the armed forces in the Valle del Cauca province.

A death toll of 20 - 32 of them guerrillas - has been reported after a series of battles near Cali, the provincial capital and the nation's third largest city.

In a separate action in the region a dissident wing of the nation's biggest guerrilla group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), tried and failed to capture the

jail in Yumbo.

FARC's leadership has accepted a peace treaty with President Betancur and is currently preparing to reform as a left-wing movement in the political mainstream. Its dissident wing, however known as the Ricardo Franco Front, continues to mount terrorist actions.

Solidarity three angrily abandon hope of fair trial

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

In short, angry, final statements, three Solidarity leaders yesterday denounced the Gdansk court that is trying them on charges of planning to stir up protest strikes in Poland.

The court will deliver verdicts today on the three defendants, the dissident historian and opposition theorist Mr Adam Michnik and two Solidarity organizers, Mr Bogdan Lis and Mr Wladyslaw Frasyniuk. The prosecutor has demanded four-year jail sentences for Mr Michnik and Mr Lis and a five-year term for Mr Frasyniuk.

The defendants and their counsel made plain yesterday that they have abandoned any hope of presenting a comprehensive defence case, the main judge having ruled out any statement that touched on politics, and are hoping for a more sympathetic response from the Warsaw Supreme Court when they submit their appeal.

Mr Michnik, who has been expelled from the court four times during the trial, confirmed his defence speech to 30 seconds. "After what I have seen and heard here, in order to stay true to my conscience, I can only say one thing I forgive those who lie about me and repress me," the 38-year-old historian declared. With unintended irony, Judge Krzysztof Zienuk replied: "Thank you".

Mr Lis, aged 32 an engineer from Gdansk, tried to remind the court of government promises made during the August 1980 strikes that Solidarity leaders would not be treated as criminals. But he got no

Nato m...
chan...
plans to...
Sovie...

Pressure mounts on Mengele family

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

Interest here in the Mengele affair seems temporarily to have shifted from the exhumed remains in São Paulo to the nature of the Bavarian family which bears his name.

How much did its members know about Josef Mengele's movements around South America? Is it really true that he once returned to Germany after the war, to attend a family funeral?

The family includes a lawyer, an architect, and the largest single employer in the town of Günzburg. All would seem to have a vital interest in continuing to be acceptable to a typically respectable German provincial society which, despite the notoriety of their name, they undoubtedly have been.

If the corpse in São Paulo is not Mengele, and they knew it, they would have been party to a huge deception. The world's press and television would again descend on Günzburg and Freiburg, the Bavarian town where the lawyer son lives, and frustrate for some time the family's determined efforts to regain its privacy.

Those efforts were relaxed a little yesterday, when Herr Dieter Mengele, aged 34, one of the two nephews of Josef Mengele who own the farm

Spain seeks media curb on terrorism

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, is to seek a voluntary agreement with his country's news-media intended to reduce publicity given to terrorist acts, following the examples of Britain and Italy.

His announcement came yesterday, the day after Spain's signing of its EEC accession treaty was overshadowed by the violence of ETA, the Basque terrorist organization, left four dead, including an Army colonel.

Señor González said he could not guarantee that the terrorists would not seek out news forthcoming national occasions, for instance the referendum on Nato, to gain spectacular publicity.

But the media could collaborate, in a perfectly democratic spirit, to deprive the terrorists of at least one of their principal objectives.

He recalled last autumn's Brighton bombing in which the entire British Cabinet might have been killed, in replying to criticisms of the Spanish police having failed to detect the presence in Madrid of an ETA "commando".

Señor Narcis Serra, the Defence Minister, has said that the authorities were alerted on June 5 that an ETA commando might be in Madrid.

● BAYONNE: French police yesterday ordered out of the country Señor Manuel Martínez Beistegui, aged 26, one of three Spanish Basque militants extradited by France last year, after he returned illegally following his acquittal by a Madrid court (AFP reports). He has replied to the expulsion order by seeking political asylum in France.

Kohl to ban rally masks

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

It is to be made illegal in West Germany, "under certain conditions", for masks to be worn during political demonstrations as a way of avoiding identification by the police.

This is one of the first results of a political intrigue that has gone on for weeks over alleged lack of leadership by the Chancellor, Herr Helmut Kohl. One right-wing complaint has been that he defers to the Free Democrats, the liberal component of the centre-right coalition.

The right, as embodied in Herr Franz Josef Strauss's Bavarian Christian Social Union, say the FDP is weak on law and order issues. The FDP has, among other things, opposed the ban on masked demonstrators.

As part of the intrigue, Herr Kohl was forced yesterday to meet Herr Martin Bangemann, the Free Democrat leader, and Herr Strauss to review the status of the coalition. The pending law against masks was made known while they spoke.

The "certain conditions" represent a compromise: Herr Strauss wanted a total ban, but the FDP seems to have ensured that it will be enacted only where the masked demonstrator can also be proved to have endangered public order.

ANC denies grenade attacks on two South African Coloured MPs

From Michael Hornsby, Cape Town

The African National Congress (ANC), the main underground opposition to South Africa's white minority Government, has denied with unusual promptness any responsibility for Wednesday's grenade attacks on the homes of two Coloured (mixed-race) Members of Parliament.

Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis Le Grange, claimed within hours of the attacks that he had "no doubt" they were the work of the ANC, apparently because of the sophisticated weaponry of Soviet origin used by the assailants.

There is some evidence of a division of opinion within the ANC over the attacks that he had "no doubt" they were the work of the ANC, apparently because of the sophisticated weaponry of Soviet origin used by the assailants.

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Naude 'traitor' jibe
The South African Embassy in The Hague yesterday branded remarks made by Dr Beyers Naude, the secretary general of the South African Council of Churches during his visit to the Netherlands, as "treasonable" (Robert Schull reports from Amsterdam).

Dr Naude said that if the US, Britain and West Germany were to apply "significant pressure" on South Africa apartheid would end tomorrow. Otherwise there would be a long and bloody civil war.

insist that civilian casualties would be avoided as far as possible.

In 1983 a car bomb explosion outside a building in Pretoria housing offices of the Air Force killed a score of people and injured more than 200, black and white. Although some of the dead and wounded were Air Force personnel most were not.

The ANC, from its Zambian exile, belatedly claimed responsibility for the incident, but since then Mr Oliver Tambo,

the ANC's president-general, has often shown unease when taxed by journalists to justify the incident.

Earlier this year, Mr Nelson Mandela, the former ANC leader serving a life term of imprisonment in South Africa, said the bombing was "a mistake" when interviewed by Lord Bethell in his Cape Town jail.

On the other hand, the ANC did not hesitate to claim responsibility for a bomb last month in the Johannesburg offices of the Army's medical corps in which 14 people were injured, most of them civilians.

By the ANC have also seemed to endorse, at least by implication, violent attacks on black policemen and councillors as part of a campaign to render black townships "ungovernable" and replace "stoggy councils" with popularly elected committees.

● LUSAKA: The ANC is to launch its biggest conference since 1969 at a secret venue in Southern Africa on Sunday, the group said yesterday (Reuters reports).

Priest who referred to be mayor

PILKINGTON ANNUAL RESULTS.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT.

Improved United Kingdom operations and another excellent contribution from overseas have resulted in a pre-tax profit of £116m, the highest in the history of the Group (up 31% on 1984).

The second interim dividend has been increased by 1p to 7.5p per share, a total for the year of 12.5p.

NEW PRODUCT SUCCESSSES
As the benefits of restructuring in the United Kingdom come through, new products such as Cemfil fibre, our asbestos replacement, and Kappafloat, a high energy glass which gives triple glazing performance to double glazing, are already making their mark.

UK TURNAROUND
During the year much attention was focused on the United Kingdom, where output per man was increased by 7% against a manufacturing industry average of 2%.

All divisions except Fibreglass Insulation are now in profit.

Capital expenditure was held to £84.4m and included the purchase of Rockwool factories from Cape Insulation Ltd. and the building of the new coating works at Corby.

PROSPECTS
There is a continuing improvement in United Kingdom profitability. The overseas companies should continue to perform well with the Group making further progress through better productivity and improving margins. There will however be exceptional United Kingdom redundancy costs as restructuring is completed.

OVERSEAS STRENGTH
With 70% of our turnover coming from abroad, our influence as an industry leader is increasing. An example of how doors are continuing to open is our joint venture float glass plant in the People's Republic of China.

While in the U.S., Libbey-Owens-Ford produced record results with an advance of 75% on after tax profits compared with last year.

ANTONY PILKINGTON CHAIRMAN

MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURING
A major restructuring of management responsibilities has led to operational and profit responsibility being delegated by the board to divisional executives. Much of the central committee structure has been dismantled, and decision taking focused at the operational level.

	1985 £m	1984 £m
Sales:	1226.9	1214.4
Trading profit:	86.8	76.7
Licensing income:	30.3	24.0
Related companies:	28.9	20.3
Net interest paid:	(30.0)	(32.7)
Group profit before tax:	116.0	88.3
Earnings per share:	21.8p	13.3p
Dividends per share:	12.5p	11.5p
Dividend cover:	1.4	1.0

LICENSING INCOME BROADER BASED
The source of licensing income continues to change from float bath technology to the more general transfer of technology and technical assistance. Together, float licensing and technical assistance amounted to £30m in the year, £6m higher than 1984.

The above figures include an additional contribution to replacement at current cost and obsolescence. On an historic cost basis comparable figures would be:
Group profit before tax: £148.3m £122.0m
Earnings per share: 36.9p 29.6p

While in the U.S., Libbey-Owens-Ford produced record results with an advance of 75% on after tax profits compared with last year.



Nato makes big changes in plans to counter Soviet attack

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Radical changes are being made in the style of operations of British and other allied forces, numbering 250,000 or more men, responsible for the defence of 124 miles of the border between East and West Germany.

The changes are seen as the most important development in the fighting capability of Nato's Northern Army Group (NORTHAG) since West German forces joined Nato nearly 30 years ago.

The new concept of operations has been developed by General Sir Nigel Bagnall, who is about to relinquish command of Northag in order to become, at the end of next month, the professional head of the British Army as Chief of the General Staff.

It is seen as being an outstanding achievement by him to have secured the agreement of the West German, Dutch, Belgian and British military commands and defence ministries to his new concepts.

Priest who preferred to be mayor

From Peter Nichols Rome

The vote-gathering skills of Don Domenico Siclari at last month's local government elections have now brought him the post of mayor in the Calabria town of Cortale, but cost him his job as priest.

He was elected mayor on Tuesday night after one of the briefest speeches surely ever made by a successful candidate in the highly oratorical south. He would promise nothing, he told his supporters, because the poor region of Calabria had already had enough of promises. But he would change the way their town was administered.

Papua curfew imposed to halt rape terror

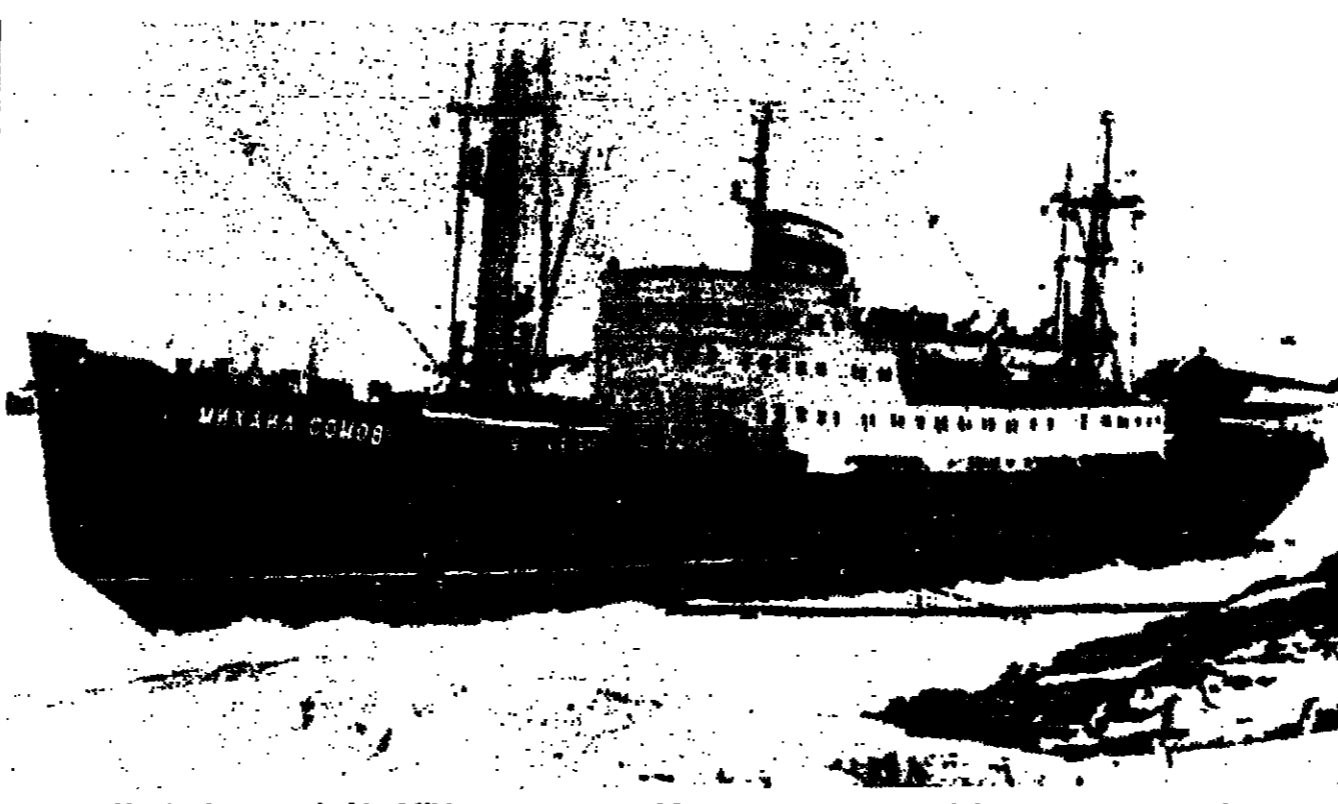
From Tony Duboulin, Melbourne

The Papua New Guinea capital of Port Moresby goes under curfew from tonight as a government-imposed state of emergency comes into force after a series of rapes.

The state of emergency will extend police powers and the defence forces will be called out as part of an attempt to curtail rising lawlessness.

Mr Michael Somare, the Prime Minister, said today reached a point that threatened the lives and safety of a large number of citizens.

The decision to impose the emergency was taken by Parliament on Wednesday night after seven rapes in the past six days, including that of a New Zealand woman and her 17-year-old daughter by seven youths who broke into their Port Moresby house.



The Soviet research ship, Mikhail Somov, trapped for two months in Antarctic ice. A rescue is planned.

Christian Democrats claim Italy's top job

From Peter Nichols Rome

The first step has been taken in the quest for the biggest prize in the Italian political system.

The head of state is elected by a joint session of his two Houses of Parliament, which has been set for June 24.

The value of the prize is less the powers that the office offers than the security of a seven-year mandate, although, even if the powers are circumscribed by the constitution, they are by no means merely symbolic.

This is especially true after an energetic term of office like President Pertini's, which is drawing to its close. He showed that a forceful and popular personality could give the presidency greater real influence in public affairs than the constitutional definitions suggest.

It would not be easy to find a successor to this vigorous octogenarian, so much so that some people have proposed solving the problem by asking him to stand for another seven years.

Signor Ciraco De Mita, leader of the Christian Democrats, the country's largest party, ruled out the re-election of President Pertini in his statement, which said the president must be a Roman Catholic.

Signor De Mita referred to the tradition of a presidency which alternated between the lay and Christian Democrat interests. Moreover, the Socialists have in Signor Bettino Craxi the first Socialist prime minister in the country's history and he looks set for a long stay. And the Christian Democrats now see logic in having a president who is not from the same party as the prime minister.

So the principal problem facing the Christian Democrats is who should be their candidate. At the moment the favourite is Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Senate's presiding officer. Under the constitution he is the second-highest authority in the country after the president.

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Evidence against Ver ruled out

From Keith Dalton, Manila

A Philippines court yesterday disallowed the introduction of crucial evidence against armed forces chief General Fabian Ver upon which he was indicted with 25 others in connection with the 1983 murder of Benigno Aquino, the opposition leader.

The prosecution's evidence against General Ver was his own testimony, given over a three-day period last year to a fact-finding board which subsequently concluded that he, Manila's police chief and six soldiers had attempted to cover up the Aquino murder.

But in a five-page resolution the three-member court ruled that their testimony could not be used as evidence against them, effectively paving the way for their eventual acquittal, court observers said.

An emergency meeting of prosecution lawyers is to be held today "to assess the damage", a spokesman said. General Ver's lawyer, Mr Antonio Coronel, said he would file a motion to dismiss the case against the general.

He and his co-accused are charged as accessories to the airport slaying of Aquino, while General Luther Custodio, who was in charge of airport security, and 16 soldiers, are accused of the actual murder. A civilian has been named as an accomplice.

Mr Aquino was shot dead while in military custody moments after his plane landed. A 32-year-old business woman, Mrs Rebecca Quijano, has told the court she saw a soldier shoot Mr Aquino in the back of the head.

The military claims that the assassin was Ralando Galman, an alleged Communist gunman, whom soldiers shot dead.

Manila's police chief, Major General Prospero Chaves, who was in charge of the assassination investigation, was charged as an accessory after the board complained that he tried to mislead them as to the murder weapon.

Rugby tour resignation

Wellington (AP) - New Zealand's top rugby union commentator yesterday resigned his job with the state-owned Broadcasting Corporation because he would not accept an assignment to South Africa next month, Radio New Zealand reported.

Mr John Howson, who has broadcast all of the major matches played by the All Blacks in the past decade, said he was given a 24-hour ultimatum to agree to go to South Africa or face dismissal.

Mr Howson said his decision not to go was based on personal reasons. "I said at the time (the decision to go was made) that the tour was not in the best interests of rugby."

Public opinion in New Zealand is strongly divided.

ity three abandon fair trial

mounts le family

rally mask

acks on the red MPs



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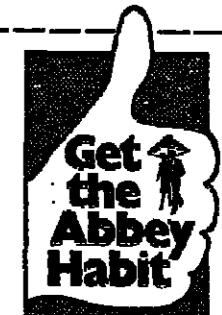
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Cinema

Evocations of avian ecstasy

Birdy (15)
Odeon Haymarket

Silver City (15)
Chelsea Cinema;
Screen-on-Baker-Street

She'll Be Wearing Pink
Pyjamas (15)
Classic Haymarket;
Gate Bloomsbury

A View to a Kill (PG)
Odeon Leicester Square

The Glenn Miller Story
(U)
Screen-on-the-Hill

Even if his films have rarely realized his potential gifts, Alan Parker is indisputably outstanding among the generation of British directors who have emerged since the late Seventies.

finally to have metamorphosed himself into a bird. Al, concerned with body-building and the tough image required by his Italian-American background...

It is rooted in reminiscence. In 1950, when she was three, Turkiewicz and her mother arrived in Australia as refugees from Poland...

There is a certain "so-what?" factor in the novel: once we have been convinced of the boy's avian obsession there is not much else but variations on the theme.

In the novel the compensation is the writing - skilful, humorous and engaging even at its most pretentious.

The playing of Nicholas Cage as Al and Matthew Modine as Birdy (growing, with every glance of the eye or movement of the body, progressively more bird-like)

The pseudonymous William Wharton's 1979 novel, from which Birdy is adapted, is a self-conscious literary exercise...

The Australian Silver City is a distinguished feature debut by Sophia Turkiewicz...

Turkiewicz (who studied in Poland, observing Wajda and Zanussi, after graduating from the Australian Film School) captures the time and place uncannily well.

A very handsomely mounted production, stylishly photographed by Chris Cole, Silver City succeeds at once as an affecting, bitter-sweet romance and as a no less deeply-felt commentary on the immigrant issue...

The going is tougher here, though: the characters embark on the first outward bound-style endurance course for women, located in the beautiful but perilous terrain of the Lake District.

The point is less the story than the self-revelation of the women. No male author would dare show women so fearful and nervous, so obsessed with sex and unable to cope with it...



Subtly complementary: Nicholas Cage (left) and Matthew Modine in the demanding hospital scene of Birdy

older and older; but criticism seems irrelevant to this kind of industrial product, calculated to the precise demands of a market.

More than thirty years on, The Glenn Miller Story is revived, restored and fitted up with the stereophonic soundtrack which was recorded at the time but never used because of the difficulties of equipping theatres in 1954.

Film by film the writing gets more turgid, the characters more cardboard and James Bond, alias Roger Moore,

the production package had flair and freshness, two qualities that have recently become the trademark of opera at Geneva. As if to fuel expectations further, the management chose this production to launch an experiment in broadening the Grand Théâtre's audience...

David Robinson

Television
Shifty demeanours

David Mellor, the Home Office Minister concerned with the new legislation being framed to control experiments on animals, regarded his decisions as invidious and difficult.

However wandering their gaze, their conviction did not seem to falter, not even in the case of the Glasgow University professor who imported tissue from brain-damaged baboons...

It was, in general, not a night for the squeamish. Later on Rachel and the Roarettes (BBC2) told the tale of a publican's daughter whose affections were alienated from her wallflower, but oppressive...

I doubt the cause of feminism is best served by suggesting that a woman's destiny is a straight choice between a white wedding, rite of passage into an oppressive social system, or black leather, brave badge of courage and freedom.

Celia Brayfield

Opera
Drama or comedy?

Così fan tutte
Grand Théâtre, Geneva

This should have been an outstanding Così fan tutte. With some of the most promising Mozart singers on the international stage, an inspiring conductor and an intelligent director, the production package had flair and freshness, two qualities that have recently become the trademark of opera at Geneva.

But neither Così nor the production technique of François Rochaix are the stuff of popular opera. The stage is framed by Ezio Tofflotti's single set, a succession of proscenium arches advancing in architectural style and fresco design from the classical era to the present day.

The approach seems original, even daring. Comedy or drama? Rochaix refuses to commit himself to either side of the delicately balanced coin devised by Mozart and Da Ponte, suggesting all along that life's choices may not be quite as clear-cut as the opera's authors suppose.

Claudio Desderi, whose Alfonso is known from Glyndebourne, dominated this ensemble with a superb performance, omnipotent as impresario and stage manager, hon vivace and youthful philosopher. The timbre is warm and versatile, the mastery of recitative nuance and vocal acting as near-perfect as Bruscantini's. Ruth Ann Swanson's Despina, with whom Alfonso appeared to have an unusually intimate liaison, is a heaven-sent gift to the opera stage, a lovely actress and a



Anne Sofie von Otter: someone for Covent Garden to look forward to

But neither Così nor the production technique of François Rochaix are the stuff of popular opera. The stage is framed by Ezio Tofflotti's single set, a succession of proscenium arches advancing in architectural style and fresco design from the classical era to the present day.

The contribution from the pit was of the highest order, bracing in tempo and nervous energy, soft-grained in texture, elegantly phrased and articulated.

Andrew Clark

Sea Finland
Finnish sailing through the ages. See the might of the world's largest icebreakers, the naval battles of the Baltic, remarkable wrecks, shipwrecks and more.

LONDON ARTS CHOICE
ARTS CHOICE LONDON
CHOICE LONDON ARTS
LONDON ARTS CHOICE
Small Ball, FACING FANSHAWE, HOME, FRONT LINE IMAGES, RITUAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

See it and Hear it
as Never Before
JAMES STEWART
JUNE ALLISON
The Glenn Miller Story
NOW On the Screen on the Hill

Figaro
Ambassadors
Following John Wells's splendid Radio 3 version of Beaumarchais's play, this is the second attempt in the past week to break the operatic monopoly on The Marriage of Figaro...

Theatre
What it demonstrates is that, musically, Mozart is well able to survive in conditions that allow him to display his powers as a master dramatist...

Theatre
reversible louvered screens move the action from the bedroom and the boudoir to the garden with minimum fuss, and simply by means of decorative suggestion...

Theatre
Janet Dibley's Cherubino, an androgynous beauty in red waistcoat and pin-stripes, undergirds the opening pangs of love in the usual romantic manner...

Concert
ASMF/Marriner
Festival Hall
This was an evening in aid of the Solicitors' Benevolent Association: not perhaps an alluring prospect for those who feel as benevolent to solicitors as I do.

Concert
Betty Carter
Ronnie Scott's
Since she relies on neither of the fashionable tactics of open-heart surgery or comfortable eclecticism, the ovations that are greeting Betty Carter during her present London season may be considered something of a miracle.

Concert
Nicholas Kenyon
oboe solos sounded uncomfortable (unlike the clarinet solos, in which a second-generation Marriner excelled) and it looked odd to use only the second player at each string desk in the Scherzo's trio.

To mark the state visit to Britain of the President of Mexico and Señora de la Madrid
Aztec Treasures
from Mexico
Ten of the most prized objects from the National Museum of Anthropology, Mexico
12 June - 11 August 1985
MUSEUM OF MANKIND
The Ethnography Department of the British Museum, Burlington Gardens, London W1X 2BX

LONDON ARTS CHOICE
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... little Greenham...
... the story.

Celia Brayne



... Sofie von Otter...
... for Covent Garden...
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... of an endless...
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... qualities as an...
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... 10.0-8 0... Sun...

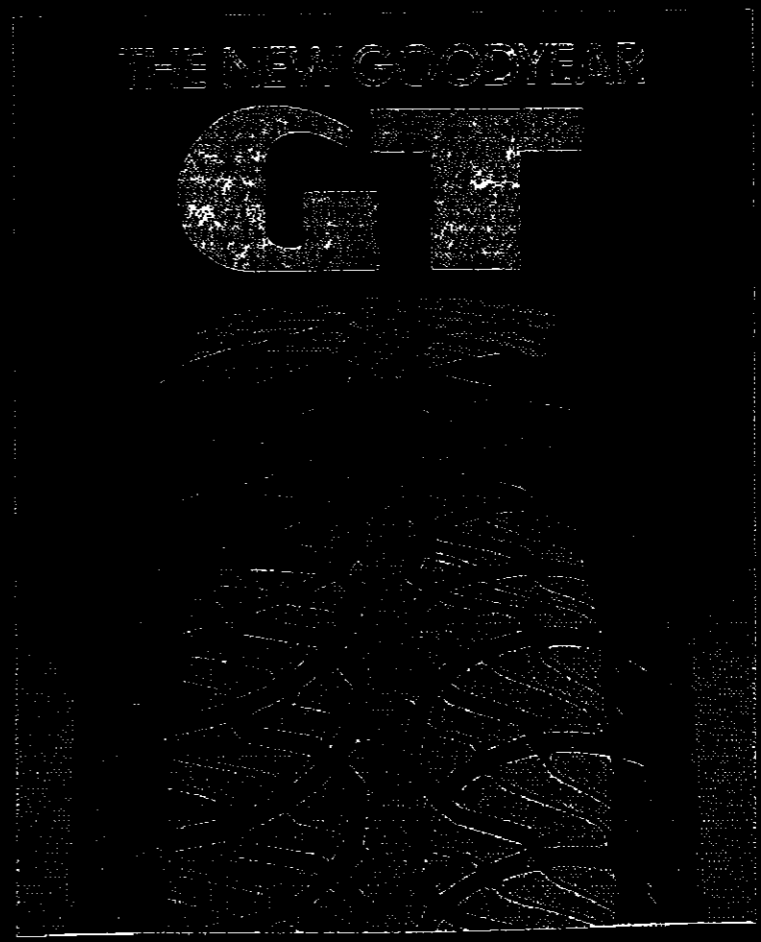
CHOICE
LONDON
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FROM THE S...

With the development of the new GoodYear GT our advanced technology has again led to increased driving confidence. Confidence that comes from even better grip in all conditions. GT is what you need when you're loaded up for a long journey, the family already looking forward to getting there. When you need a tyre designed to make family motoring safer. The GT won't let you down, it will cheer you after mile. The key to this impressive grip is the unique tread pattern of the GT. A technological breakthrough that not only looks but performs like the real thing.

For the confidence that comes from safe driving, it's the GT.



LEADING THE WORLD IN TYRE TECHNOLOGY

GOOD YEAR

SPECTRUM

Rocketing into the space race

Europe is nosing ahead in the commercial star wars with a strong rival to the US shuttle. Pearce Wright, Science Editor, reports on the remarkable success of the Ariane launch vehicles

In one of the most remarkable success stories of the decade, European scientists have broken the grip on space shared by the United States and Russia. The family of Ariane launch vehicles, funded mainly by France, has a waiting list of 25 satellites to launch some of the for customers who have switched from the US shuttle because of delays.

And design teams in Britain and France, working independent are planning new versions of reusable spacecraft which could take scientists into space at a far lower cost than the \$15,000 million cost of the American shuttle programme.

The American programme has fallen far behind

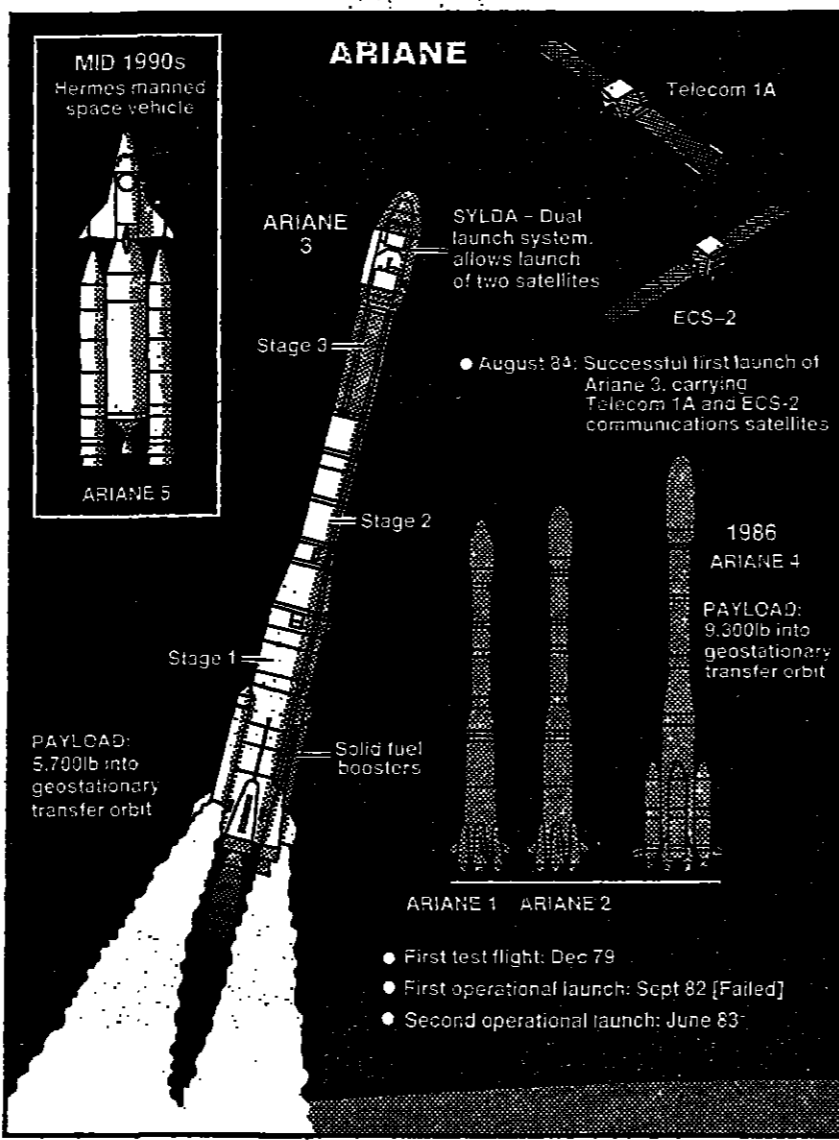
Ten years ago when the European Space Agency was formed, such achievements seemed unthinkable. The superpowers seemed insuperable in space. Only five years ago, when the first US shuttle, was launched, the future for Europe looked gloomy.

European rocket technology was still based on the development of expendable engines, which were jettisoned after placing a payload into orbit. With the advent of the shuttle, from which astronauts were able to place satellites into space, expendable rocket technology looked as if it would rapidly go out of date before the European Space Agency would put its system to the test.

Indeed, if the highest hopes of the designers and engineers had been realized, the shuttle would have made satellite launching such a cheap operation that no other satellite technology would have got a look in.

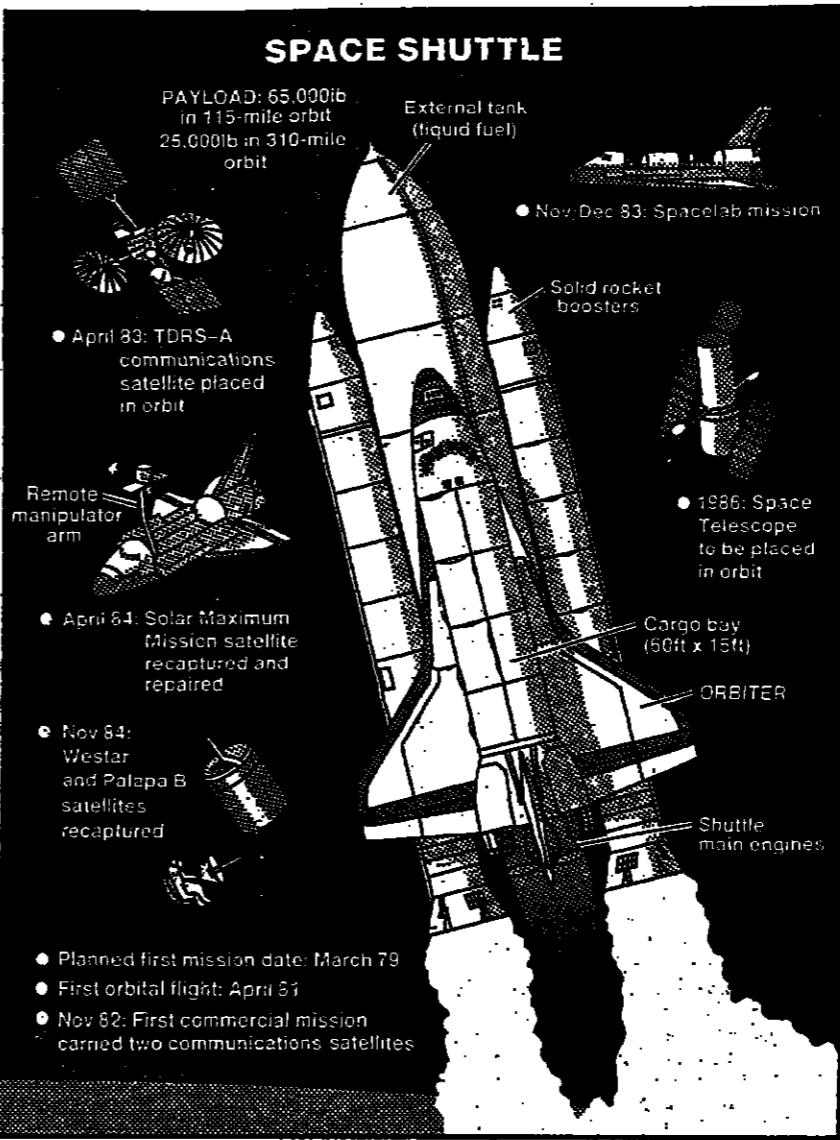
Commercial and industrial potential, taking into account opportunities in pharmaceuticals, chemical processing and development of exotic materials in a weightless environment. Moreover, more than 2,100 companies throughout the world are involved in commercial space activities.

A growing attraction for Ariane's customers is that its price-per-launch is expected to remain below that of the US shuttle, which is scheduled for a sharp price increase in about October this year.



- ARIANE
● First commercial alternative to the US
● Classic launch vehicle
● Price-per-launch expected to stay stable
● Simpler methods of manoeuvring satellites
● Launch eased by low latitude of equator site

European banks and CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales), the French national space agency. France is the organization's largest shareholder, controlling just under 60 per cent of the shares. Its president is M. Frederic d'Allest, who is also director-general of CNES, the organization from which the French drive came for the development of Ariane.



- SHUTTLE
● Organisation with 27 years experience
● Most advanced launch system available
● Possibility of retrieving a faulty satellite
● A future assured by NASA investment
● Ability to place larger payloads into orbit

to get the Europa rocket into service, the enterprise withered in 1973. On the other hand, ESRO gave scientists in Europe a collaborative organization through which they could pool limited money and resources for space exploration. Their spacecraft were launched by US rockets. After a shaky start, ESRO had eight of its satellites launched between 1968 and 1972 by America.

heavyweight satellite payloads but a vehicle that can be "manoeuvred" to launch France's proposed Hermes, a small, manned, shuttle vehicle. It is a programme of which M d'Allest is a fervent advocate. The European launchings are from the French space centre at Kourou in French Guiana. Although tropically hot and humid, its position two degrees north of the equator makes it an ideal launch site for placing satellites into the geostationary orbit (22,250 miles above the equator) and for launching rockets which can travel 3,000km without passing over land.

There would be no unmanned space flights

Ever since the manned space programme began, there has been a strong body of thought that anything that has to be done in space can be done more easily and cheaply without people. That opinion has been expressed particularly forcefully by scientists who in the past could have built many more unmanned scientific satellites for the price of putting an astronaut into space.

In fact, NASA has had to modify that position because of the delays with the shuttle. The US Department of Defence has reinstated an expendable rocket launch project, based on the Titan rockets, to run parallel with the shuttle, because of some of the shortcomings in the reusable vehicle's performance.

Army dissent is behind the Pakistan 'coup' trial, reports a special correspondent

General Zia and a case for concern

Built in the 16th century, Attock Fort, which lies on the left bank of the Ravi river in Pakistan's Punjab province, is famous not for its historical drab but for its modern use as a maximum security military prison.

A special military court has just concluded a secret trial in a barrack hall in this grim fort in which 14 military officers and three others were accused of plotting to overthrow the country's military ruler, General Zia ul Haq. A verdict is expected this month.

In the Attock trial, 12 majors, one lieutenant-colonel, an air force squadron leader, two police officials and one civilian, left-wing lawyer Raza Kazim, are accused of conspiring along with others including Ghulam Mustafa Khar (exiled leader of Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party in London) to "wage war against the government established by law in Pakistan" by plotting to kidnap Zia, assassinate generals and ministers and incite a "mass uprising". They are also charged with sedition for holding meetings and publishing subversive literature.

tion "smuggled from a neighbouring country". This incident in which two policemen and a passerby were killed in "cross fire" (according to the government's version) was officially reported as the "smashing of a foreign-inspired plot" aimed at "large-scale subversion" in the country. But official spokesmen consistently denied that any military personnel were involved in the incident and also publicly denied rumours that a coup attempt had been foiled.

A wave of arrests of military staff followed the Lahore incident as ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) units struck in a coordinated way, at major cantonments across the country. By early February more than 250 officers were detained and a similar number - reputedly outspoken critics of martial law - were interrogated. The officers on trial maintain that the Nawab Kot incident was part of an elaborate operation devised and executed by the ISI chief, General Akhtar Rahman, to frame dissident officers and purge the military of critics of the Zia regime. They point to several inconsistencies in the official account of the incident and allege they were led into a trap by a man claiming to be a sympathizer of their dissident group but who was an ISI plant.

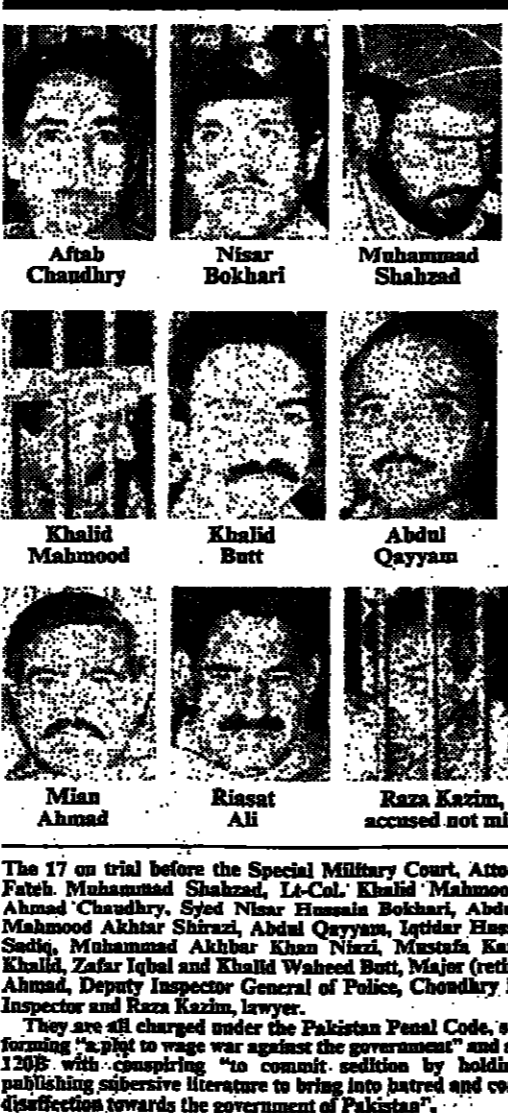
From information that has recently emerged from Attock Fort about events preceding the Nawab Kot incident it is possible to reconstruct what might really have happened. The story begins in mid-1981 when a group of about 20 junior and middle ranking officers, convinced that military rule was damaging the country, undermining its unity and would ultimately lead to the disintegration of Pakistan, decided that something must be done. They began to meet informally as a discussion group.

ilian political forces. They did not sympathize with any particular party, their views can best be described as nationalist and populist, veering to the left. Some members of the group are alleged to have communicated to certain opposition politicians the fact that a section of the armed forces shared their views about restoring democracy. One of these politicians is said to have told the young officers that some "friendly generals" would be interested in collaborating with them.

By this time the smell of rebellion in the ranks was enough to press the authorities into action. Only 25 of the hundreds arrested and questioned in January-February, 1984 were eventually taken to Attock on June 29. Most of the others were released in May although about 20 officers are still believed to be detained in army rest houses. The government evidently decided to limit the number of officers brought to trial so as not to expose the full extent of disaffection.

Other moves also show the regime's anxiety to hush up the whole affair within the forces; any reference to the trial in the news media is prohibited. During August 1984 a summary of evidence for the case was recorded at Attock Fort - a fact noted by Amnesty International in which testimony was given by 60 witnesses. But when the trial began in January the prosecution denied this ever took place. According to an informed source, "the Summary was too explosive, revealing much greater discontent in the armed forces than the authorities could risk exposing".

ON SECRET TRIAL



The 17 on trial before the Special Military Court, Attock. See Sgt. Ltr. Fakhri, Muhammad Shahzad, Lt-Col. Khalid Mahmood, Majors Aftab Ahmad Chandhry, Syed Nisar Hussain Bokhari, Abdul-Razzaq Malik, Mahmood Akhtar Shirazi, Abdul Qayyum, Iqbal Hussain, Muhammad Sadiq, Muhammad Akhtar Khan Niazi, Mustafa Kamal, Muhammad Khalid, Zafar Iqbal and Khalid Wahneet Butt, Major (retired) Mian Zaher Ahmad, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Chandhry Riazat Ali, Police Inspector and Raza Kazim, lawyer.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 670)

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a solution key at the bottom.

SATURDAY START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES. Portfolio £22,000 to be won. Trooping the Colour: best vantage points. Riding side-saddle: elegance on horseback. Seduced by the Lorelei: cruise the Rhine. Weekly walks: the first of a series. PLUS: News from home and abroad; paperback of the month; Fernando Bujuones, baller's rising star; buying and repairing oriental rugs; critics' choice of the coming week's music, dance, opera, films and theatre; bridge, chess and concise crossword.

Steam Diesel Electric The glorious past - The challenging future The new, bigger Railway Magazine brings the whole world of railways alive This month we feature: Two-Routes to Skagness and West Highland Freight July issue. Railway Out Now! 95p

The W... bea... burea... Helen Fra... probes... sed costs... could... disease

FRIDAY PAGE

The wife who beat the bureaucrats

Convinced that her husband, crippled by a stroke, could walk again, Diane Munday fought the system. Helen Franks reports on her victory

Diane Munday has two boxes simply marked "Derek". They are the result of nearly a year's struggle with bureaucracy and tell a story significant for those trying to claim a disabled grant.

Diane and Derek Munday are in their early fifties, at that stage in life when the mortgage is nearly paid off and the children are growing up. Last May, the morning after they'd returned from a holiday in Tenerife, they were having breakfast in their home near St Albans, and Derek was reading the paper, when something happened which dramatically changed their lives.

"One minute he was sitting there beside me, and the next he was unconscious on the floor", says Diane. Derek, aged 53, had suffered a severe stroke which left him paralysed down one side. After three months of crises, secondary infections and near-disasters, his condition stabilized. Diane was told that her husband probably would never walk again, nor have the use of his left arm. He could not sit up straight, feed himself or go to the lavatory unaided and he was confused mentally.



Illustration by John Grimwade

'It was a matter of principle... she wanted to change the rules'

at home. The crucial problem was getting the wheelchair in and out of the house for hospital visits during the day when her sons were at work. The Stepmaster would do the trick and could be installed immediately.

For three days her builder son worked to get the front garden ready. A formal builders' estimate would have been around £1,100 for the work. Diane's son was prepared to put in a bill for £350 for materials only. It meant that Derek Munday, who immediately began to improve, could come home to his family by the middle of last August, no more than a fortnight after the hospital had said he was ready and the negotiations had started.

That grant aid could not be paid retrospectively but that there was a special "without prejudice" approval where urgent works are necessary. It meant that an applicant could submit the estimates and then start the work instead of waiting three months for approval. Not for the Stepmaster, though. "Works already completed cannot be covered by these arrangements," it said.

her own rights and difficulties but those of other people, that drove Diane to further battles. She drove a local councillor and to local MPs among others. It was, she explained, a matter of principle. The rules were inconsistent and inadequate. She wanted to change them.

Meanwhile, another letter from the council informed that do-it-yourself labour did not qualify for grants. To add further insult, it stated that "there is no grant provision for temporary work", thus disqualifying the hired Stepmaster, though the council made it clear that if Mrs Munday would like to submit estimates for a permanent lift she could have the "without prejudice" go-ahead, thus costing St Albans around £1,600.

FIRST PERSON Carless rapture

English eccentricity is not dead. My family is distinctly odd. Not only do we have a black and white television (decidedly eccentric), but we lack a video recorder, double glazing, food processor and home computer. And, stranger still, we have no car.

Car owners who whizz around Sainsbury's on Friday nights, pushing their trolleys at motorway speeds and grabbing at guava yogurts, tortilla chips and soy sauce, miss all the pleasures of a daily tour of the shops where the day's menu, not the month's, is the main concern.

Our holiday's are taken in places which can be reached by coach or train, but we have not yet had to smoothe in Sellafield or search for the sea at Southport.

Buses, too, are not to be scorned. Market days, when country buses meander from village to village, are a joy and only intrepid non-car owners like us would know that you can reach Stonehenge from Salisbury on a double-decker, stay there for 43 minutes and catch the same bus back.

Margery Roberts

There would be no unmanned space flights

the price of putting a man into space. It is about the time when the history of the space age reached that point where it would be difficult to say whether it was a triumph or a tragedy.

Advertisement for a crossword puzzle with clues and a grid.

Advertisement for 'The Paper That Es and Provokes' with a price of £2,000.

Survey probes increased costs

A pilot scheme is to be launched to find out how many patients decide not to complete their dental treatment because they cannot afford new charges.

Vaccine could prevent disease

A potentially quick, cheap and simple way of preventing dental disease has been developed at the Royal College of Surgeons' research establishment.

DENTAL BRIEFING

Winning the war against tooth decay

The screech of the dentist's drill is no longer a sound which every British child will have to endure. The health of our children's teeth has improved dramatically over the past decade and if it continues, filled teeth could become a rarity.

Transplants for teeth

People in their late teens who are self-conscious about the prospect of wearing a brace to straighten their teeth can opt for a tooth transplant. This method is also chosen if the tooth has to be removed, too far for a brace alone.

Hypnosis or the needle?

Patients are often given anaesthetics by dentists who have no training and rely on the knowledge they picked up as undergraduates. This alarming finding has emerged from a questionnaire sent to a small group of dentists and doctors and reported in the British Medical Journal.

Painting over the cracks

Two procedures which are particularly useful for children's teeth are not yet available on the NHS, though some glass cements are. Drilling is much more limited and more of the original tooth can be preserved.

80 per cent effective against dental caries

acid. This etches out the enamel surface and the tooth is then painted with a liquid resin which hardens when exposed to light.

Large advertisement for 'HEALS SALE' featuring various furniture and home goods with discounts and contact information.

THE TIMES DIARY

People's tribune?

Clearly bent on buying his way into the Labour Party, Mirror Group publisher Robert Maxwell is hatching a deal to take over Tribune...

Artistic licence

What price patriotism? In the wake of yesterday's announcement of a six-month embargo on granting an export licence for the Mantegna...

Black humour

It's not often that a character in a Billy Connolly story gets a right of reply - but here goes, Connolly's latest anecdote - as told to friends...

Early warning

The Greenham Common women should beware. The American Air Force base in Berkshire has just taken delivery of 15 Ramo Mk 19 grenade launchers...

Out of hours

Here's a puzzler for Hackney women. Female workers in the council's leisure services department want them to fill in a questionnaire about how services could be improved...

Starring Rolls

Like the true beggar-on-horseback, GLC chairman Tony Banks MP rolled up to the House of Commons yesterday in his white chauffeur-driven limousine...

Footnote

Warning: don't play footsie in Sofia. Leading an eight-MP, inter-parliamentary delegation to Bulgaria, Tony Nigel Forman made the mistake of stretching out a leg beneath the full-covered table...

PHS

Where Fowler is off-target

Hermione Parker on shortcomings of the social security review

Despite its now obvious limitations the Beveridge plan was strategic thinking on the grand scale. There was a magic about it which captured the mood of the moment that has still not entirely disappeared.

Beveridge was explicit about his aims, assumptions, methods and figures. He aimed at abolition of want, which he measured (albeit rather rudimentarily) in terms of weekly needs and costs throughout the life cycle...

welfare state that it requires exponential rates of economic growth to sustain it. Once growth falters and unemployment sets in there is a vicious circle with governments forced to choose between cutting benefit rates or increasing tax. In the UK the incentive gap between low pay and unemployment benefit has almost disappeared...



replace Beveridge must be concerned with income security (tax relief and cash benefits), not just social security. At a time when millions of people are both taxpayers and beneficiaries the old concepts no longer make sense...

The author is joint chairman of the Basic Income Research Group.

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David Hewson on the implications of the Peacock inquiry

BBC may have to make the break

The preliminary skirmish in the battle for Peacock's ear was a somewhat desultory affair. A gaggle of BBC governors and a group of senior personnel met to greet Professor Alan Peacock at an informal gathering to discuss his inquiry into paying for the corporation.

"What do you want to ask us?" inquired one BBC figure. "Nothing," replied Peacock, indicating that he thought the BBC already knew everything it wanted to say and most of the evidence it intended to introduce to support its case.

"When do you want the evidence by?" asked another corporation worthy. "August 31," came the reply. A shocked silence followed.

This unsatisfactory engagement has strengthened the conviction of the BBC that Peacock and his team with the preconceived notion that the corporation is as wonderful as it often believes itself to be.

the promotion of Michael Checkland to what is essentially a new and powerful post of deputy director general, indicate deep concern that the BBC has not been performing as well as it should on several fronts.

The make-up of the committee, in BBC eyes, leaves little encouragement. Only two figures connected with the corporation have a seat - Alasdair Hetherington, the former Guardian editor and compiler of the corporation in Scotland, and the broadcaster Judith Chalmers, picked because she now divides her time between ITV and the BBC.

Alasdair Milne has complained long and hard that the BBC had been over-examined in recent years. In fact, apart from largely internal exercises such as the recent Peat Marwick report, the only formal inquiries have been Annan, which was formed in 1975 and reported in 1977, and Pilkington, starting in 1962 and reporting two years later.

Peacock is likely to turn around the routine of two issues. What would be the effect on other media advertising on the BBC? And is it true that BBC advertising would inevitably lead to a lowering of quality throughout the whole of British television, as the corporation claims?

The inquiry is also likely to commission a large opinion poll to test public feeling about the present output of BBC and ITV, and whether they would object to advertising being introduced into the corporation, wholly or partially.

By the end of August, Peacock and his team will have their full quota of submissions. Peacock's frequent portrayal as a Trojan horse designed to bring commercials into the BBC does not tally with the fine detail of the committee's brief. It is asked to produce options, not recommendations.

So by August next year we may well read something along the following lines: Option One, funding the BBC completely from advertising immediately, would bankrupt several ITV companies and most of the commercial radio network.

Option Two, limited advertising on BBC1 and Radios 1 and 2 with a mandate from the Home Secretary not to lower existing standards would enable the licence fee to be pegged at £58 for a further five years. Advertising on ITV and commercial radio would not grow in volume in the first few years, but a gradual expansion can be foreseen within five years and new forms of

commercials would appear to take advantage of the BBC's individual qualities. Option Three, no advertising and continuing reliance on the licence fee, would result in a £125 colour licence by the turn of the decade. Even pay-television services and sponsorship cannot raise sufficient revenue to make much impact on this forecast.

The conclusion might be that the majority of the committee favours Option Two, with two dissenting voices. Such a verdict would place the initiative in the hands of the BBC's governors. They could simply ask the Home Secretary for permission to introduce advertising - as they could today.

In the autumn of 1986, with a general election looming, would the BBC choose to stick with its sanctity at a financial price which is obvious and well-publicized on its own screens in the hope that the threat might go away? And if it embarked upon such a course, would there be sufficient public sympathy to back its case for an ever-increasing licence fee against advertising?

Yet until February, Klein knew that any request for phone tapping, mail intercepts and police raids would be rejected and would harm his own position. Thanks to the American media and government, those obstacles were rapidly dismantled after February's Jerusalem "trial". Police raids produced the evidence which was always known to exist. Confirmation from the son about his father's fate settles the issue.

Tom Bower

David Watt

Mrs Thatcher's nationalization

Mrs Thatcher made a revealing remark to David Frost on breakfast television the other morning when she said that a fall in the exchange rate was a terrible blow to national pride.

It is because of this convention that child benefit is a prime target for cuts although logically only that part of it paid to families below the threshold should count as benefit expenditure. The rest is a net tax deduction or tax credit. If child benefit were expanded for the most part as a tax expenditure the case against increasing it would be much weaker.

It costs approximately three times more (£15 billion) to remedy the unemployment and poverty traps simply by raising personal tax allowances than to do so by increasing child benefit (£4.75 billion).

To generations reared on Beveridge there may seem no alternative to social security based on contingency, but there is. For years economists and social scientists have been trying to evolve a system of income security based on assessed basic needs. Milton Friedman called it negative income tax. The Health Service is a basic income guarantee.

Today's Britain is basic income. Despite differences between them all these schemes relate benefit entitlement to assessed basic need rather than employment status. This has tremendous advantages. All earnings rules can be abolished and the black economy of welfare decriminalized.

One more factor has to be added to complete the Prime Minister's picture - the conviction that her country was actually going to a partition until she came along and turned it back from the brink. She does not see her role as that of a manager, in the style of Baldwin or Macmillan or even Disraeli. It is her destiny to be the saviour of the nation in the style of her real heroes, the Young Pitt and Churchill.

The Coogrove portrait, which I do not think I have overestimated excessively in summarising, explains a number of things - the crucial and continuing importance of the Falklands episode in her mind, for that was the moment at which the dream incontrovertibly corresponded to reality; likewise her deep, instinctive distrust of the Foreign Office as being, in a sense, the Trojan Horse of the outside world.

glucose into their tea, and hasten forth to their humble tasks resolved to save sterling from disgrace. But I doubt whether even Mrs Thatcher believes that life is quite like that.

The only hard evidence as to what it actually is like does not help the patriotic case very much. A MORI poll taken in 1979 asked the question: "Do you think the country is going to the dogs?" and produced the answer that 44 per cent thought it was. The same question, put in 1982, just after the Falklands victory and at the height of Mrs Thatcher's personal popularity, yielded a 43 per cent agreement.

It would be interesting to ask the same question today. I suspect that the answers would be a little (though not very much) more cheerful, though the population in general, but that among the young, in the north of England and (as argued last week) among the professional middle classes, they would probably be gloomier.

The other difficulty is that British Gaullism of the ideal variety has had a pretty patchy career in the world at large in the past six years. Its successes (leaving aside the Falklands) can be boiled down to the haggard over Britain's EEC contribution and the more speculative proposition that Mrs Thatcher's rhetoric and Iron Lady image assuaged the right-wing troubles that the retreat from Rhodesia and Hong Kong might have provoked under a Labour government.

Britain's latest proposals for the limited revival of majority voting in the EEC are one example of this; they are not exactly federalist in intent but they are at least a constructive attempt to play the European game in a way that is diametrically opposed to the Prime Minister's original leanings. Sir Geoffrey Howe's reopening of a dialogue with the communist bloc is another U-turn, and there have been still many others. These changes have not been achieved without a lot of Prime Ministerial tantrums and accusations of betrayal, but in the last resort Mrs Thatcher lacks the touch of madness which enabled de Gaulle to defy, at great cost and for a short decade, the reality that in the world as it is today, unilateralism is a luxury that second and third-rank powers can only afford on very rare occasions.

*Thatcher: the First Term (Bodley Head £9.95)

moreover... Miles Kington

Striking a note of cynicism

It's always easy to spot the difference between amateur musicians and the real thing. The amateurs look as if they are enjoying themselves, while the true pro wears a look of infinite cynicism from beginning to end. Musicians are the true cynics par excellence.

I came across the best example of this unrecognized law in 1980, when I went to see a production of Pal Joey at the Half Moon Theatre down in E56, or somewhere equally remote. The place was so small that the band was virtually on-stage, yet he said: "We try to play good music and all they want to do is hear pop songs from back home and cry into their whisky."

As I was saying, musicians tend to be cynical, all over the world. Lenny Bruce used to say that if the band was laughing at what he said but the audience wasn't reacting, he knew he'd gone too far. The only exception I can think of to this is, curiously, concert pianists, who seem to put on an act of total suffering every time they touch the keyboard.

I bumped into the leader of the band next day in a book shop. I got talking to him and sympathized with him about the churlishness of the wedding party. "What can you do?" he said. "We try to play good music and all they want to do is hear pop songs from back home and cry into their whisky."

I was once present in the Wigmore Hall at midday when a classical pianist was practising by himself - just me, just him. His expressions of woe and agony could not have been more exhausting than if there had been 2,000 people in the hall. I think he was practising the agony as much as his piano.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Testing time for the Bank of England

The relationship between the Treasury and Bank of England, always interesting, is in a fascinating phase...

The economy, which the authorities are currently attempting to contain by operations which result in the Bank's bull mountain...

This is a mountain for which the Brussels Commission has absolutely no responsibility. It is the result of the decision to prevent the banks building up their deposits at an even faster rate...

The important question now is whether the Bank of England is able ("willing" is an exaggeration) to execute the Treasury's will. The area in which an answer is singularly important is monetary policy...

By buying commercial bids from the banks, the Bank of England has already provided no less than £15 billion to sustain their rapidly rising lending...

Greenwell argues for some mechanism that would hinder people - the aggregate, from cashing their bank deposits. This is not as terrifying as it might seem...

In politics such ploys are par for the course, but as the broker W. Greenwell points out in a perceptive, and for non-believers in the sight of grown men playing games with motorway numbers...

There is, to say the least, in current monetary policy confusion both in thought and deed. It is almost a relief to return to the latest figures...

"Attempts to control MO from the demand side", say the seers of Bow Bells House, are almost certainly doomed to failure...

As always, much of the interest in the final figures is in the non-target aggregates. The old narrow money measure, interest-bearing M1, rose at a 2.3 per cent pace...

Tremors of change at Saatchi

If a share price movement can be attributed to the departure of a senior director, then Tony Simmonds-Gooding must have been flattered to learn that no less than £44.8 million was deducted from the market capitalization of Whitbread...



Simmonds-Gooding (left) and Peter Jarvis set for change and continuity respectively.

Both reactions are short-sighted and, arguable, ill-informed. Mr Simmonds-Gooding had spent 12 years at Whitbread, and at the age of 48 was ready for pastures new...

Mr Simmonds-Gooding's lengthy experience in industry, including the managing directorship of a significant public company, can now be brought to bear on a wider canvas...

New company for Ronson

Mr Gerald Ronson, chairman of Heron International, Britain's second largest private company, is setting up a property development company specializing in building for high technology companies...

MARKET SUMMARY table with columns: STOCK MARKETS, MAIN PRICE CHANGES, CURRENCIES, INTEREST RATES, GOLD

Pressure grows for shake-up of US banking system

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Mr James Baker, US Treasury Secretary, yesterday threw the full weight of the Reagan Administration behind pressure for comprehensive reform of America's outdated banking laws...

Testifying before the Senate Banking Committee in Washington, Mr Baker urged Congress to push ahead with wide-ranging reforms which would pave the way for interstate banking and allow banks to carry out new types of activities...

He did not rule out the possibility of eventually scrapping the Glass-Steagall Act. That is the restrictive measure which ensures separation of investment and commercial banking activities...

Midland Bank is believed to have attracted more than 200,000 new customers as a result of its move towards free banking for those who keep their accounts in credit...

When Midland launched free banking last December, it hoped to attract 100,000 accounts in the first year. At present National Westminster, Lloyds and Barclays require most customers to keep a minimum £100 current account balance to avoid charges...

Midland executives say the move has helped to stem the drain of good quality customers, from which Midland was suffering, and they are pleased with the quality of business they have gained...

There has been much speculation about the cost to Midland of moving to free banking and a clear picture is not expected to emerge for some time...

None of the other banks have immediate plans to follow Midland, although it is likely that if one of the other big banks does, then all would be forced to respond...

So far the other banks have been fighting back in a variety of ways. Barclays has told its managers not to respond to credit status inquiries from Midland which relate to customers moving their account...

Grand Metropolitan is raising £108 million from the sale of Pinkerton Tobacco business in the United States. The deal in no way affects the cigarette operation, Liggett and Myers...

Pinkerton, which produces smoking and chewing tobaccos, is being bought by the Swedish tobacco group, Svenska Tobaks. Last year Pinkerton earned profits of £4.5 million on a turnover of £81 million...

Grand Metropolitan said last night that it had decided to sell the operation because it no longer fitted in with its overall strategy...



Baker: plea for more profitable banking system

needed to allow banks and savings institutions to compete with other providers of financial services...

He said: "If Congress does not act to resolve the confusion in the financial services industry, we believe the combination of state legislative initiatives and legal innovations arising from competitive pressures may cause further fragmentation of the financial system..."

Mr Baker said the immediate priority was to allow banks to carry out a wider range of activities in competition with other financial institutions and this would lead to a sounder and more profitable banking system...

On interstate banking which is gradually emerging in the US despite existing legislation, Mr Baker aligned himself with Mr

Once some experience had been gained with new activities in the banking area, the issue of Glass-Steagall could be revisited, Mr Baker said...

US retail sales fell 0.8 per cent in May, the biggest monthly fall since last July, with car sales down 3 per cent, the Commerce Department reported yesterday, Sarah Hogg writes...

However, the figures for April have been revised upwards substantially, to show a 2.4 per cent rise in the month compared with an original estimate of a rise of only 0.9 per cent...

Taking the two figures together suggests some growth in the second quarter of the year, but months strong "bounceback" in the American economy forecast by some analysts...

Over the full year to last month, retail sales rose only 5.3 per cent, before allowing for inflation...

Abbey 19 times oversubscribed

By Richard Thomson

The flotation of Abbey Life shares, the City's largest private sector primary share issue, worth £241 million, was 19.25 times oversubscribed, it was announced yesterday...

About 130,000 successful applications will receive shares. A total of 2,600 million shares were applied for compared with the 135 million on offer...

The applications were worth £4.6 billion compared with the £241 million worth of shares being sold. The shares, being sold by

ITT, the US conglomerate which owns Abbey Life, represent 48 per cent of the company's equity...

The basis of allocation gives significant preference to smaller applications, leaving roughly half the issued shares in the hands of private investors, a Warburg spokesman said...

About 1,600 applications for 4.6 million shares by Abbey Life employees have been allocated in full on a preferential basis...

company's shares is expected to push their price up to a premium of up to 50p soon after they start to be traded next week...

Under the terms agreed, applications for between 200 and 4,400 shares stand to receive the minimum allocation of 200 shares. Applications for 4,600 to 4,800 shares stand to get 225 shares...

On larger applications, those for over 5,000 shares stand to receive 5 per cent of the number applied for, though some may only get four per cent...

Accept Bristow bid, says Westland

By Judith Huntley

Sir Basil Blackwell, chairman of Westland, the troubled helicopter company, in an unexpected volte-face, has told the company's shareholders to accept the £89 million bid from Mr Alan Bristow's new company, Bristow Rotorcraft...

Westland had been holding out against the bid in the hope of finding a white knight from America to rescue the company. But in a statement last night, Westland said that no better deal was forthcoming now and

that it was recommending shareholders to take the one-for-one offer...

The acceptance of Mr Bristow's bid means that £60 million of capital from the founding institutions in Bristow Rotorcraft will be available...

It appears that Westland could not find a white knight to come up with such an offer. None of the discussions Sir Basil had with prospective Westland rescuers, has led to an alternative proposal which the

board believes is preferable to Bristow Rotorcraft's offer...

Westland, however, has made it clear that it still believed the long-term future of Westland would be better served by an association with an international company with financial muscle...

Westland's directors will accept the offer for their holdings, which total 25,640 shares, and Bristow's founders will pick up their Westland stake for 150p per share...

NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE SUCCESS advertisement for Staveley Industries plc with large text and a globe graphic.

Table with 4 columns: YEAR'S RESULTS £ MILLIONS, SALES, PROFIT BEFORE TAX, EARNINGS PER SHARE. Rows for 84/85, 83/84, 82/83.

Staveley Industries plc contact information and address: Staveley House, 11, Dingwall Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR9 3DB.

Vertical text on the far left edge of the page, including "E. L. BOLS" and "Rhine".

IN BRIEF section containing short news items: GKN sells seven firms, Signal increase, Redland up £14m, ACT soars, Taylor cash call, Banking rise.

WALL STREET

Dow hovers near 1300

New York (AP Dow Jones) - Share prices remained lower in moderately active early trading but were above their worst levels of the session.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down about 5.49 points to 1,300.85. Earlier it had dipped slightly below 1,300.

Losers outnumbered gainers by about 8 to 5. Mr Dan Marciano, first vice president in charge of capital commitment at Prudential-Bache, said the performance of the technology sector was going to be the key to the overall market as investors attention focussed on International Business Machines (IBM).

IBM jolted the market on Wednesday with its report that it expects lower earnings for the first nine months of the year compared with the corresponding nine months last year.

IBM's shares were above their low for the day of 119.94, down by 1 at 119.94. Digital Equipment, trading at 91.41 earlier, was down 1 1/2 at 92.

Among New York Stock Exchange gainers, CBS Inc was up 1/2 at 118 1/2 on rumors of a possible stock buyback programme by the company.

COMMODITIES

Oilwise depressed and depressing soft attracted some attention yesterday. Commission house buyers in America, enticed by the lowest real sugar prices ever, bought into the market, driving it a bit.

But they immediately encountered trade selling, familiar pattern - and prices began to look even more fragile.

Coffee received some encouragement from renewed Brazilian frost reports, but it seems so far that the crop has escaped.

A sharp fall in US retail sales last month failed to make any impact on the dollar in quiet markets yesterday. The dollar was little changed from opening positions at the end of the day, to show gains at the expense of most key currencies.

Sterling was still being bolstered by high British interest rates and also benefited from the decision to postpone the Opec meeting to July 5.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

This lessened volatility over lower crude oil price trends, but most dealers say the background of oil worries remains an inhibiting influence for sterling.

The rate against the dollar, after moving within a narrow band throughout, closed up at 1.2647.

Sterling's trade-weighted index, however, closed at its best of the day, at 79.5, compared with 79.2 on Wednesday.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table with columns for Market rates, 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months. Includes entries for New York, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, etc.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table with columns for Market rates, 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months. Includes entries for Argentina peso, Australian dollar, Bahraini dirham, etc.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table with columns for Market rates, 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months. Includes entries for Argentina peso, Australian dollar, Bahraini dirham, etc.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table with columns for 1985, 1984, 1983, 1982, 1981, 1980. Includes entries for American Growth, British American, etc.

Table with columns for June 11, June 12, June 13, June 14. Lists various stocks and their prices.

Table with columns for Open, High, Low, Close, Est Vol. Lists London Financial Futures.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table with columns for Open, High, Low, Close, Est Vol. Lists Three Month Sterling, Dec 85, etc.

Table with columns for Open, High, Low, Close, Est Vol. Lists Dec 85, Mar 86, etc.

Table with columns for Open, High, Low, Close, Est Vol. Lists Mar 86, Jun 86, etc.

Table with columns for Open, High, Low, Close, Est Vol. Lists Jun 86, Sep 86, etc.

Table with columns for Open, High, Low, Close, Est Vol. Lists Sep 86, Dec 86, etc.

Table with columns for Open, High, Low, Close, Est Vol. Lists Dec 86, Mar 87, etc.

Table with columns for Open, High, Low, Close, Est Vol. Lists Mar 87, Jun 87, etc.

Table with columns for Open, High, Low, Close, Est Vol. Lists Jun 87, Sep 87, etc.

Table with columns for Open, High, Low, Close, Est Vol. Lists Sep 87, Dec 87, etc.

Table with columns for Open, High, Low, Close, Est Vol. Lists Dec 87, Mar 88, etc.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Problems associated with the Abbey Life subscription created patchy conditions near the close yesterday.

Overnight money had traded in the region of 12 1/2 per cent for most of the morning and was actually down in the area of 12-11 per cent briefly after lunch.

However, late trading saw the rate reach 13 per cent and even 13 1/2 per cent in places, before closing at 12 per cent.

Discounted Treasury Bills (Discount %): 12 months 12 1/2, 6 months 12 1/2, 3 months 12 1/2.

Local Authority Deposits (%): 12 months 12 1/2, 6 months 12 1/2, 3 months 12 1/2.

Overnight (per cent): 12 1/2, 12 1/2, 12 1/2.

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Schemes: 12 months 12 1/2, 6 months 12 1/2, 3 months 12 1/2.

Local Authority Deposits (%): 12 months 12 1/2, 6 months 12 1/2, 3 months 12 1/2.

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Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Schemes: 12 months 12 1/2, 6 months 12 1/2, 3 months 12 1/2.

Local Authority Deposits (%): 12 months 12 1/2, 6 months 12 1/2, 3 months 12 1/2.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Table with columns for Unit, Offer, Chng, Yld. Lists various unit trusts like American Growth, British American, etc.

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Tozer restructuring plan nears completion

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

It looks as though the long mooted restructuring plan of Tozer, Kemley & Milburn (Holdings) will be unveiled next week. The shares rose 2p to 37p...

A company called Gosswall House Investments, which is thought to be related to the McAlpine building family, announced that it has increased its shareholding to over 6 per cent.

GHI has had a shareholding just below the deplorable 5 per cent level for some time. It could be significant if it had chosen this route ahead of the restructuring scheme...

Mr Gerry Scanlan, chief executive of Allied Irish Banks, had a confidence-boosting meeting with City banking analysts yesterday.

Small, refrained from buying leaving sellers almost with the field to themselves.

Government stocks suffered falls of up to 1/4 among conventional issues although index-linked stocks managed modest progress...

TKM which has been struggling against a debt mountain, has three other significant shareholders. They are Mr Tom Brerley, the New Zealand-born Australian based entrepreneur...

L Messel & Co., the stockbroker, has declared its enthusiasm for Ryan International, the coal recovery and bedding materials company...

TKM's capital reconstruction will be supplemented by the sale of the company's shares. About £5 million which could comprise with £6.6 million, is expected.

The stock market had another weak day with the debut of cash raising new issues and fears of depressing sentiment.

The FT 30 share index fell 7 points to 977.0 points and the DAX rose 2.1 points to 1,845.3 points.

Traded option highlights

Volume in the traded options market lifted yesterday, with British Telecom and the stock market index contract getting most of the attention.

The main market spilled into the options floor. The past week of losses in the equity market has encouraged the bears who believe the stock market is now in steady retreat from a peak.

Put contracts were much in favour as the anxieties of the main market spilled into the options floor.

The main market spilled into the options floor. The past week of losses in the equity market has encouraged the bears who believe the stock market is now in steady retreat from a peak.

COMPANY NEWS

MINET HOLDINGS: Three months to March 31. Figures in £000. Turnover 18,538 (15,901). Pre-tax profit 4,996 (4,884). The board reports that exchange rate movements have not had a material impact on profits...

Table with columns for 1984 and 1983 figures for metrics like Turnover, Profit before tax, Earnings available for ordinary dividends, etc.

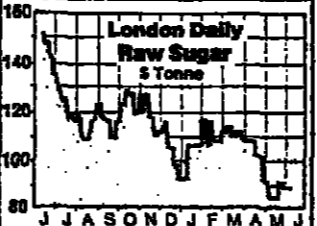
The Anglo-Indonesian Corporation PLC Summary of results for the year ended 31st December 1984.

Sugar price lowest this century

By Michael Prest Financial Correspondent

World sugar prices have fallen over the past few days to their lowest level this century and possibly to their most depressed ever.

After fetching \$88 a tonne in London on Monday, raw sugar for August delivery has crept back to just over 90, largely propelled by American commission house buying in New York...



The upturn, which is occurring from a low base, is only temporary. Ms Faridch Bromfield, analyst at E. D. & F. Man, the big sugar trade house, said: 'Unless we get a series of disasters which give sound reasons for prices going up, prices won't go up.'

Ms Bromfield estimates that sugar, deflated to 1974 prices, is the cheapest this century and that, on a similar basis, it has probably never been so low.

At the close of trading in London yesterday the August sugar contract had recovered to \$93 a tonne.

The board of Selincourt, the fashion company which includes names like Frank Usher and Arwig, rejected the increased offer saying it was still not enough.

Selincourt given final d'abo offer

By Alison Eadie

Mrs Jennifer d'Abbo, who revamped the Ryman stationery giant, has increased the cash offer for Selincourt to 28.6p from 26p and declared it final.

The board of Selincourt, the fashion company which includes names like Frank Usher and Arwig, rejected the increased offer saying it was still not enough.

The cash offer values Selincourt at £14.9 million and the share offer values it at £19 million, with the price of Stormgard, Mrs d'Abbo's vehicle, unchanged at 28p.

Stormgard yesterday charged that Selincourt was unable to produce a refinancing package as advantageous to shareholders as its own. Stormgard is raising £5.3 million at the equivalent of 26p a share.

The final closing date is June 28. By the first closing date Mrs d'Abbo had secured 26.45 per cent.

Accounting switch helps Redland make the grade

TEMPUS

Redland's quality image might have been unfairly denied yesterday. Profits reached £108 million as expected, but only thanks to an accounting change which added £3 million.

To be fair, in switching from year end to average exchange rates the company is reducing its profits exposure to the most volatile aspects of currency markets.

Redland's quality is in wide spread of building material interests. Despite £6.5 million one-off costs, partly offset by £3 million property profits, it succeeded in lifting profits by 8 per cent in Britain, with little help from the market.

The company, however, faces the imminent break up of its cosy roof tile duopoly with Marley, Tarmac and ARC are moving into the market and this will doubtless lead to localized price cutting.

Unfortunately, Redland cannot defy gravity entirely. In Germany housing starts are expected to fall by 20 per cent this year and Redland has given warnings of a 25 per cent profits fall.

The present year's excitement should be in the US, now free of loss-making Seasonal. The aggregates company is benefitting strongly from a tax raising exercise to fund road building.

The full benefit will come through in 1986. The current year will be pedestrian by Redland's standards. But other companies in the sector will do much worse.

Mr James Guerin, comments about a slow start to its United States venture should not have been a surprise. But problems in America do not impinge on ACT's figures, because it has cleverly taken the US development through a separate company, Apricot. As it has less than 20 per cent of the shares, ACT does not consolidate Apricot's results.

This is just as well. Apricot has so far failed to grab the expected half per cent of the US market for personal business computers, so losses must be running at more than the forecast \$5 million a year.

ACT's profit growth reflected a four-fifths increase in sales in Europe and Britain. The company claims that it increased pre-tax margins. But without a £17 million rights issue just before the year started, margin might have fallen.

The liberalization of defence procurement ordering in Britain means that International Signal should be able to start competing on better terms with traditional British defence operators. The group looks capable of far more growth over the medium-term.

International Signal & Control is not the most forthcoming of groups. Its involvement in the American defence and electronics sectors led it to seek a quote on London, rather than New York, since Britain's disclosure requirements are less onerous than those of Wall Street.

But with the shares rating a 30 times earnings multiple at 28.5p - more than double the August 1983 flotation price - the market seems to have adopted a fairly relaxed and enthusiastic approach to growth prospects.

In one sense the group's figures speak for themselves. In the year to March 31, International Signal achieved record sales operating profits and pre-tax returns.

With annual sales now in the \$300 million bracket, and an order book of about \$500 million, it is hardly surprising that signs of massive confidence are starting to emerge from the Signal headquarters.

The group dismisses fears of a capital raising issue, although debt this year has moved from virtually zero to about \$78 million, because group cash flow is strong.

The liberalization of defence procurement ordering in Britain means that International Signal should be able to start competing on better terms with traditional British defence operators. The group looks capable of far more growth over the medium-term.

Fine Art Developments

-greeting cards and mail order-

Year ended 31st March 1985

Table with columns for Financial Metric and Values. Metrics include Turnover, Operating Profit, Profit before tax, Dividends per share.

Fine Art Developments p.l.c.

The 1985 Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary at Fine Art House, Queen Street, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 3LP.

International Signal & Control Group plc RESULTS FOR 1984/1985

Preliminary announcement of profits for the year ended 31st March, 1985

Table with columns for 1984 and 1985 figures for metrics like Turnover, Operating Profit, Profit before tax, etc.

The above financial information is an abridged version of the Group's full accounts which will be filed with the Registrar of Companies and in respect of which the report of the auditors was unqualified.

The Chairman, Mr James Guerin, comments: * Earnings per share increased by 32%. * Group order book totals \$492 million. * Co-operation between S.I.E. and other divisions is developing and outlook for S.I.E. is very good.

Standard Chartered Bank

announces that on and after 13th June 1985 its Base Rate for lending is being decreased from 12.75% to 12.50% p.a. until further notice

Standard Chartered

International Signal & Control Group PLC England: 17a Curzon Street, London W1P 7FE. USA: 3700 Electronics Way/PO Box 3040, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17604/3040

Vertical sidebar containing various financial tables and data including 'CHANGES', 'DOLLAR SPOT RATE', 'JSTS', and 'DET TRUST MANAGERS'.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Price, % Change. Lists various companies like Bank Discount HP, Hambleton, etc.

Weekly Dividend table with columns for Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun.

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Price, % Change. Lists companies like Anglo Siam, etc.

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Shares retreat again

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, June 3. Dealings End, Today. Contango Day, June 17. Settlement Day, June 24. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price. Lists companies like Anglo Siam, etc.

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THE TIMES Portfolio DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000. Claims required for +17 points. Claimants should ring 0254-53772.

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'I'm delighted', 'results for', 'Profits of £3', '1st March', 'increase of', 'profits for the', '£2 million.', 'this is the s', 'and perform', 'an establish', 'crater produc', 'long term', 'achieved.', 'MANAG', 'In many wav', 'students. Inter', 'share and Pu', 'These satisf', 'with strategies.', 'Profit grow', 'movement in c', 'and Beverage', 'Profit growth', 'with sectors w', 'an exciting ne', 'making', 'Vital to the', 'the new manag', 'three years.', 'Today's resu', 'The effect', 'agement is be', 'earnings pe', 'and the net divid', 'and 2.00p.', 'INTERNA', 'Brewing is', 'have incre', 'in our trad', 'perpet of our m', 'the Guinness'

July 15 1985

ANOTHER SPLENDID HALF OF GUINNESS.

THE TIMES
Portfolios
DAILY DIVIDEND
£2,000
Claims required in
+17 points
Investors should ring 0144
Oil
Overseas Traders
Printer, Printing, Adverts
Shipping
Textiles
Leather

"I'm delighted to announce very favourable half-year results for Guinness PLC.

Profits of £37.2 million for the six months ended 31st March 1985 are a record. They represent an increase over the same period last year of 23%. Profits for the UK alone increased by 67% to £14.9 million.

This is the seventh successive time I've had improved performance to report, so I think our aim to establish Guinness PLC as a dynamic consumer products and services company with exciting long term prospects can be said to have been achieved.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

In many ways it's a new Guinness, with four ingredients. International Beverages, Retailing, Healthcare and Publishing.

These satisfy one or both of our twin growth strategies.

Profit growth for today, by continuous improvement in our established businesses, International Beverages and Retailing.

Profit growth for tomorrow by investment in growth sectors within our established businesses and in exciting new areas such as Healthcare and Publishing.

Vital to the success of both these strategies is the new management team assembled over the past three years.

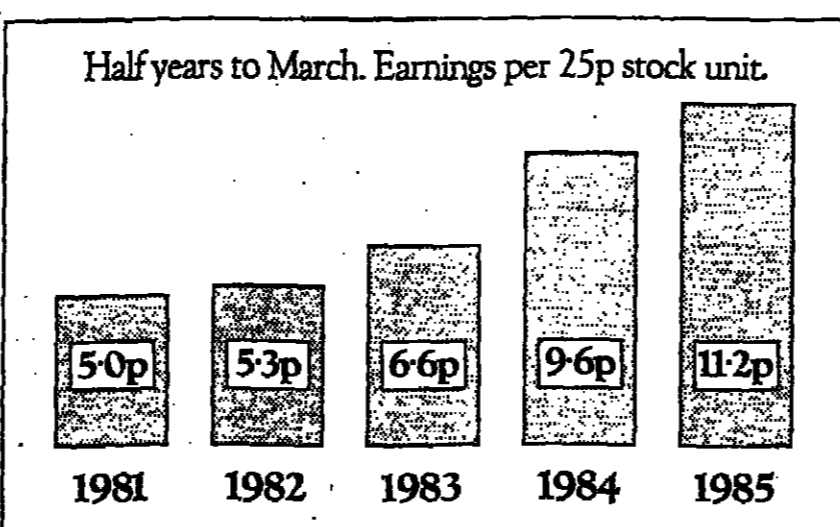
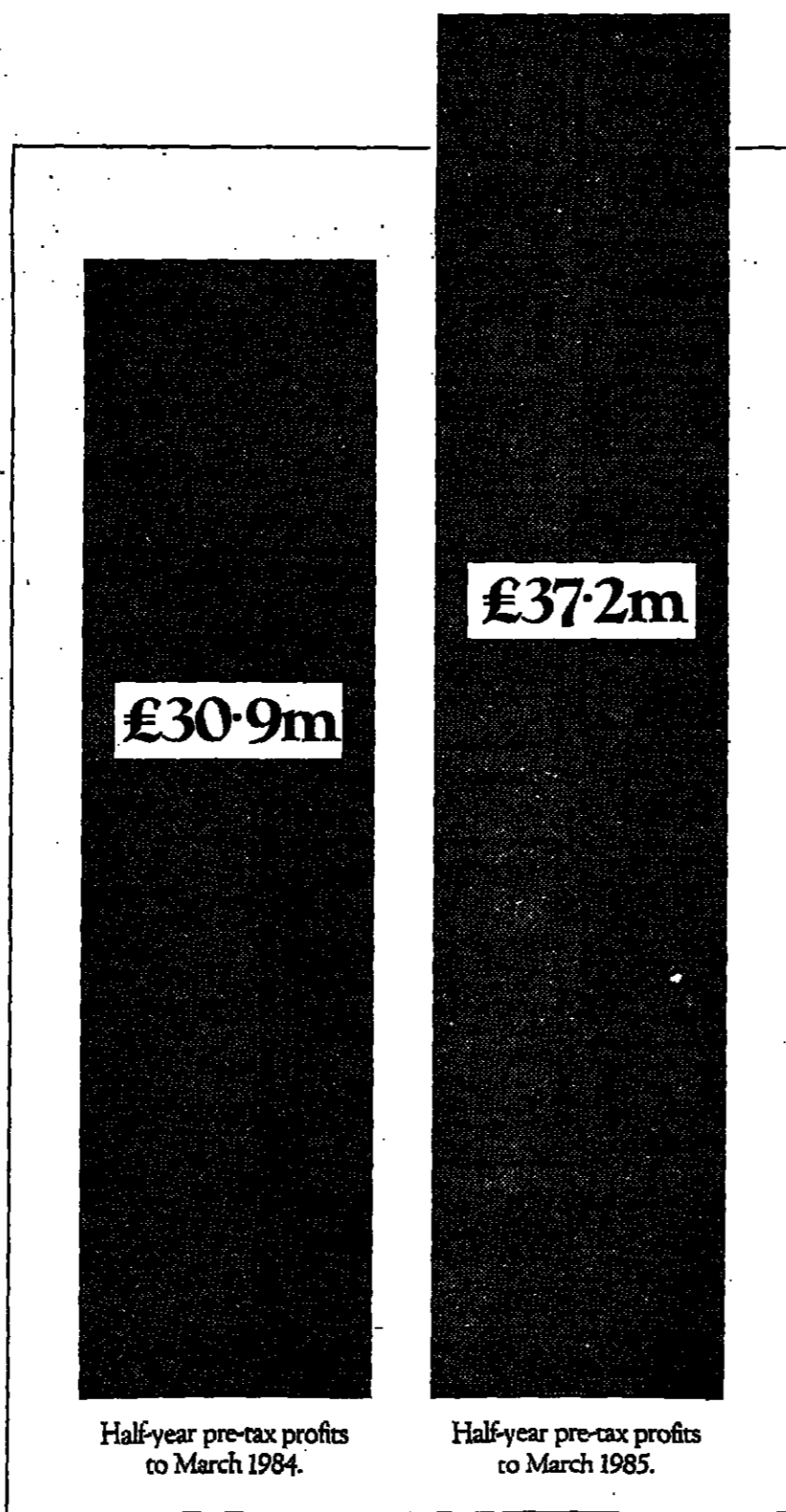
Today's results reflect their work.

The effectiveness of our strategies and management is best illustrated by the fact that this year, earnings per share have increased by 17% and the net dividend has increased by 10% to a record 2.00p.

INTERNATIONAL BEVERAGES

Brewing is our solid foundation. Trading profits have increased by 13%.

In our traditional home markets the positive impact of our marketing thrust designed to re-vitalize the Guinness Brands continues.



Volume sales of Draught Guinness in Britain and Ireland have increased.

In the U.S., the Guinness Import Company continues to out-perform the others in its sector of the market, and the growth rate in Germany has also accelerated.

RETAILING

We see retailing as a major growth area for Guinness PLC.

The way Martin the Newsagent chain has already performed since our acquisition last year is very encouraging.

Lavells, our other newsagent chain, enjoys industry-best profitability.

Further evidence of our wish to expand in retailing has been our acquisition of the 7-Eleven chain. A unique concept in convenience shopping.

HEALTHCARE

We have identified Healthcare as an area of outstanding growth potential, and our portfolio currently consists of Champneys Health Spas in Hertfordshire and Stobo Castle in Scotland and Nature's Best Health Products.

PUBLISHING

Guinness Publishing has had an injection of new management and now accounts for some fifty titles.

The division has expanded its operation too, into the Guinness World of Records Exhibition at London's Piccadilly Circus.

Earlier, I described the company as the new Guinness. But an adaptation of our famous slogan from the past seems appropriate. Guinness is good for investors."

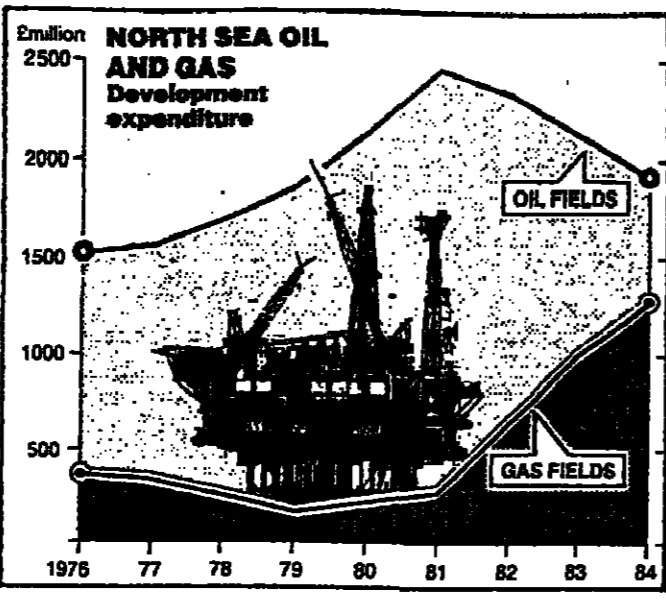
Ernest W. Saunders
ERNEST W. SAUNDERS, Chief Executive

GUINNESS PLC
GUINNESS IS GOOD FOR INVESTORS

INDUSTRY TODAY

Oil firms await tax concessions to step up N Sea investment

With statistics about Britain's North Sea oil industry continuing to improve - earnings running at £330 a second for the Government and Britain overtaking the output of Saudi Arabia - it is difficult to accept that the first oil actually arrived onshore.



Shell and Esso are planning to spend £2.5 billion on one project and the £30 billion that has been spent so far in British waters could easily triple by the end of this century.

The Chancellor said in his 1984 Budget speech is unclear - BP is carrying on with its programme for satellite production from the Forth field and has refurbished its Buchan Alpha platform and installed gas-lift equipment to increase production.

Such developments are being helped by the Government's veto of the contract under which British Gas planned to buy £30 billion worth of gas from Norway, but even more potential gas fields have been identified for longer-term development.

The Government has, therefore, to tread carefully. Too much concession to the oil companies and it loses revenue as well as losing out politically.

Advantage Britain on grass courts

By Rex Bellamy Tennis Correspondent

For the first time since 1974, when the brothers David and John Lloyd were beaten 5-0 by Egypt in Cairo, Britain are going into a Davis Cup tie with singles players who have never won a Davis Cup singles match.

Paul Hutchins, Britain's manager, has eventually chosen Steve and Colin Dowdewell, the doubles, but may change his mind and put Bates in, with either Dowdewell or Shaw, Dowdewell, aged 30, is the oldest player for Britain last year. He and John Lloyd were too good for Italy and Yugoslavia in 1984.

Bates has won two of his nine singles and three of his nine doubles in the European indoor team championships for the King's Cup. In the past year or so, he has had an encouraging record in British satellite events and has twice won the grass court doubles at the Manchester. Shaw lost both his King's Cup singles at Essen in January and has won only one of his three King's Cup doubles.

TENNIS: YOUTH HAS ITS FLING AGAINST PORTUGAL IN DAVIS CUP



Wojtek Fibak on his way to a 7-6, 6-3 victory over John Lloyd at Queen's Club yesterday (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Simpson steps up to beat Shiras

By David Powell

Leif Shiras was given a taste of his own medicine by Russell Simpson, of New Zealand, in the Stella Artois grass court championship at Queen's Club yesterday. The American who beat Ivan Lendl on his way to the final against John McEnroe last year went out in the second round, losing 6-7, 6-1, 6-3 to a player far below him in the ranking.

Durie loses the lead and match

By David Powell

Jo Durie of Britain, was one of three seeds to lose in the second round of the Edgbaston Cup Women's Tournament in Birmingham yesterday. After leading in both sets, Miss Durie was beaten 6-7, 7-6, 6-2 by Marcella Mesner, of the Netherlands.

EQUESTRIANISM

Macken keeps feet on ground

By Jenny MacArthur

Ireland's Eddie Macken, riding Carrolls Wendy, defeated Nick Skelton and Everest St James by half a second to win the opening show jumping class the Crown Financial Speed Stakes over a surprisingly large course at yesterday's Royal International Horse Show at Birmingham.

Having established a striking and impeccably behaved Aristocrat ridden by Ginny Rogers, as the winner of the lightweight class, this class was lined up at one end of the arena while the more prestigious one to be judged, here the three-class winner, King's General, ridden by Robert Oliver, headed the line-up.

Oliver eventually stood second to Mrs Jane Dewar's Seabrook, a big six-year-old by Stetchwold who, despite napping in the outdoor arena with his impudently big and beautiful presence and lovely stallion.

Denbigh Gem Brushes: Mr Dennis Hickman is now managing director. He has been made a director of the holding company Brushes International and a director of Osborn International, Germany and Brosnan, France. Mr Ian Robinson is sales director. Scottish Woodlands Owners

Association: Mr Robin Dixon and Mr Ian Grant have joined the board. Sun Alliance and London Insurance: Mr H U A Lambert has been elected chairman of the holding company and of its principal subsidiaries. Sir Derrick Holden-Brown becomes deputy chairman.

Frizzell Group: Mr Nigel Olsen has been made a non-executive director, as a representative of investors in industry. Tunstall Telecom: Mr Angus Watt has become contracts director. Moorgate Group: Mr Terry Pottinger has joined as associate director of Moorgate marketing.

LifeCare International: Mr John Brackensley is now on the board. Standard Chartered Bank Ireland and Standard Chartered Bank (Isle of Man) and continues as a director of Standard Chartered Leasing. Automobile Association: Mr R B M Harley becomes a director, Insurance on July 1.

IN BRIEF

N Koreans will not go to Seoul

North Korea will not be taking part in the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul according to two North Korean officials, Li Chang Son, chairman of North Korea's Sports Guidance committee, and Kim U Jong, chairman of the North Korea Friendship and Goodwill promotion Association. Both men were speaking on a visit to Japan.

LI also said that North Korea would send a team of 150 athletes to take part in the 1985 Universiade to be held in Japan in late August.

MOTOR RACING: Work crews have been removing the cracked tarmac from the 1.8 kilometre race track, which caused the cancellation of the Belgian Grand Prix on June 2. A new layer of asphalt will be laid, hopefully ready for the Belgian Grand Prix on July 14.

ATLETICS: Sabine Busch, East Germany's 400 metres runner, switched to the 400 metres hurdles at a meeting in East Berlin yesterday, and set an East German record of 33.2sec, 0.24sec outside the world record.

BOXING: The World Boxing Council (WBC) lightweight title bout between champion Leo Raimirez, of Mexico, and unbeaten American Hector Camacho has been rescheduled for August 10, promoter Don King has announced in Las Vegas. Camacho has an ankle injury.

GOLF: Paul Way, winner of the Whyte and Mackay PGA championship, has already virtually booked his place for the Ryder Cup match against the United States at the Belfry on September 13-15.

England win on Dutch obstruction

From Sydney Friskin Amsterdam

A long-awaited victory was achieved by England when they defeated the Netherlands in the first match of the four-nation tournament for the BMW trophy here yesterday. They last beat the Dutch at Hove in 1961, a 19th century match.

Chris Lewis, who knows a thing or two about winning the hearts of the British public, sees the trend being maintained through Wimbledon. "It's going to be very interesting," he said. "There is a brigade of young players knocking at the door. McEnroe is definitely favourite but it won't be a formality. Cash is a threat and so is Edberg."

Two years ago an unseeded player reached the Wimbledon men's final and last summer the same strange event happened at Queen's. As supporting evidence to Tim Mayotte's suggestion on Sunday that McEnroe, Connors and Lendl no longer had a "lock on the mental situation", Connors lost to a qualifier here, so it seems reasonable to start looking for the next marauding outsiders.

Mike DePalmer is on to consider. Beating Connors on Wednesday did not go to his head and yesterday he accounted for the scurrying Australian, Wally Masur. Ricardo Acuna is another who has been upsetting the form this week and Francisco Gonzalez proved even less of a handful for him than Ben Testerman, of the United States, in the 14th seed, had in the first round.

SOVIET LEAGUE: Dynamo Tbilisi 2, Kaluz'nik 1; Dynamo Kiev 1, Dynamo Minsk 1; Sida Rostov 1, Dinamo Dnepropetrovsk 1; Lokomotiv 1, Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk 1; Levski Sofia 1, Spartak Moscow 1; A, Dynamo Tbilisi 2, Kaluz'nik 1.

RUSSIAN LEAGUE: Dynamo Voronezh 2, Lokomotiv 1; Rostov 1, Partizan Belgrade 1; Spartak Moscow 1, Lokomotiv 1; Rostov 1, Partizan Belgrade 1; Spartak Moscow 1, Lokomotiv 1.

Clarke is a study in success

By a Correspondent

Warren Clarke took time off between his O level exams to win yesterday's Farmers Weekly JA Pony Jumping championship on the closing day of the Three Counties Show at Malvern.

Having broken his leg last summer, Clarke, aged 15, seemed in a hurry to make up for all the months he had missed by speeding home clear in the jump-off in 37.05 seconds on Sunday Moon, defeating Camille Crow on Woodyhill III (37.69) and Emma Gascoigne on Silver King (38.44).

Like the winner, many of the competitors were in the middle of exams. The competitors have been keen to point out that they could as easily have jumped this week at the Royal International as at the Three Counties.

RESULTS: Farmers Weekly JA Pony Jumping Championship: 1st, M D Clarke (Sunday Moon) 37.05; 2nd, M A Wood (Woodyhill III) 37.69; 3rd, M P M Chandler (Silver King) 38.44.

ATLETICS Sponsorship of £100,000 for coaching. Minolta Copiers are putting £100,000 into coaching for the next two years, with a further option for three years (Pat Butcher writes). The practical spin-off for the grass roots in the plan, conceived by Frank Dick, the national coaching director, is 20 £1,000 awards to clubs for the best projects on development of coaching in the community.

The presence at yesterday's press launch of Ann Hill, one of the few top women coaches in the country - in itself an area worthy of more attention - highlighted another problem. Mrs Hill, with 30 athletes, including the Tooby twins, is not attached to any club, although she often finds it difficult to make ends meet. Steve Ovett competes in his first championship race this evening, since dropping out of the Olympic 1,500 metres last summer. He races the same distance in the heats of the Southern Counties championships at Crystal Palace.

Table with 2 columns: Bank Name and Interest Rate. Includes entries for ABN Bank (12.25%), Adams & Company (12.25%), Barclays (12.25%), BCCI (12.25%), Citibank Savings (11.25%), Consolidated City (12.25%), Continental Trust (12.25%), Co-operative Bank (12.25%), C. Hoare & Co (12.25%), Halifax (12.25%), Midland Bank (12.25%), Nat Westminster (12.25%), TSB (12.25%), Williams & Glyn's (12.25%), Citibank NA (12.25%).

Vosper Thornycroft (UK) Limited (A subsidiary of British Shipbuilders). We have been requested by British Shipbuilders to find a purchaser for the whole of the share capital of Vosper Thornycroft (UK) Limited. Vosper Thornycroft (UK) Limited, based in Southampton and Portsmouth, specialises in the building of warships and is the principal UK shipyard for the construction of Glass Reinforced Plastic vessels. It also has substantial design capabilities and is involved in various activities related to shipbuilding, such as the design and manufacture of high technology ship and industrial control equipment and the design and assembly of ship stabilisers, steering gear and hydraulic systems. Unaudited profit before tax, but after extraordinary items, for the year ended 31st March 1985 was £7.9 million (1984 - £4.1 million). Lazard Brothers will, at its discretion, make available further information to interested parties. Initial offers should be submitted by 16th August 1985. It should be noted, however, that under the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Act 1977, the consent of the Secretary of State is required before British Shipbuilders disposes of any interest in any of its wholly-owned subsidiaries. Enquiries: E. W. Dawnay. Telephone: 01-588 2721. Lazard Brothers & Co. Ltd., 21 Moorfields, LONDON EC2P 2HT.

Table with 2 columns: Event and Result. Includes entries for England win on Dutch obstruction (3-1), N Koreans will not go to Seoul, and various sports results like Cycling, Football, and Athletics.

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Table with 2 columns: Event and Result. Includes entries for Clarke is a study in success, and various sports results like Tennis, Equestrianism, and Athletics.

FOOTBALL

Experiment fills England with confidence for return trip

By Bobby Robson closed the door on his World Cup laboratory at the spectacular Stadium, he did so with a smile of satisfaction...

ing, has played there before and could go back. That would release Hoddie, who excelled against the Germans...

Only through wildly patriotic eyes do England look like a side that is ready to conquer the world. But for reasons that no one would have wanted...



Hoddie: excelled

FA appeal on FIFA ban

Ted Croker, the Football Association secretary, yesterday asked FIFA not to confirm their provisional world-wide ban announced last week.

The ban prevents all English teams from playing against foreign sides, with the exception of youth and non-professional clubs...

- TODAY'S FIXTURES
CRICKET
Cornhill Insurance First Test (11.0-6.0)
Headingley: England v Australia

RACING: LOCAL SUITOR TO REVERT TO SPRINTING AFTER CRAVEN STAKES DISAPPOINTMENT

Shadede dope test proves negative

By Michael Seely
The official dope test taken on Shadede after finishing last but one behind Sir Upcher in the Derby has proved negative...



Brent Thomson drives Gorgeus Algeiron (left) past Dogmatic (Steve Cauthen) to win the Kennebec Maiden Stakes at Newbury yesterday (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Local Sutor, who ran so disappointingly in his annual reappearance behind Shadede in the Craven Stakes, is to revert to six furlongs and will take on Committed and Never So Bold in the William Hill July Cup...

throughout before sprouting home to beat Mignosa by 1 1/4 lengths. Putnose, the 5-4 favorite, finished five lengths away third...

Promising Voldia to initiate York treble for Cauthen

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Steve Cauthen can maintain the pace that he is setting at the top of the jockey's championship table at York today by winning another three races on Voldia (2.15), Rethymno (3.15) and Ypsilantis (4.45). All three are trained by Clive Brittain for that great enthusiast, Marco Lemos...

Voldia is a half-sister to the 2,000 Guineas third and Derby fourth, Supreme Leader, by that gifted miler, Fosse. Following an encouraging second to the useful Lammas-tide at Newmarket a fortnight ago, she is now named to win the EBF University of York Turf Cup Stakes...

SANDOWN PARK

[Televised: 3.0, 3.30, 4.0]
GOING: good
Draw advantage: high numbers best over 5f particularly on soft ground

- 2.30 JUNIOR MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (2-y-o: £2,981; 5f) (11 runners)
2 00 CORNELIA JOY (A Ven De Leoc) J Winger 9-11
2 01 BATHURST (A H Age) J Winger 9-11

Sandown selections

- 2.30 Adjala, 3.0 Sidab, 3.30 Ambit, 4.0 Tyrolite, 4.35 False Front, 5.05 Asmalwi.
By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.30 Adjala, 3.0 Evros, 3.30 Kip, 4.0 Fine Harmony, 4.35 Indian Groom, 5.05 Asmalwi.
Michael Seely's selection: 2.30 Adjala.

3.0 NORMAN HILL HANDICAP (£2,130; 1m 2f) (10)

- 2 00-01 RAMADI DAWN (D) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Chacznowski 4-9-7
2 01-02 BRINDLY LANE (A Midway) M Phipps 5-3-3

3.30 SURREY RACING HANDICAP (3-y-o: £3,589; 7f) (14)

- 2 00-01 STABLE (D) (S Harrow) M Stoute 9-3
2 01-02 STAYDY EDGE (D) (S Sbarry) J Mitchell 9-0

4.35 SINGAPORE AIRLINES NON-STOP HANDICAP (3-y-o: £3,934; 5f) (9)

- 2 00-01 DORNING LAD (D) (Mrs P Brown) M Stoute 9-7
2 01-02 LA TURISTA (D) (Mrs P Brown) M Stoute 9-7

4.55 MORE LAINE MAIDEN STAKES (3-y-o: £3,267; 1m 2f) (16)

- 2 00-01 BRANCHION (W Gready) C Britton 9-0
2 01-02 EROCHRE (D) (Mrs J Winger) J Winger 9-0

5.5 HWFA WILLIAMS HANDICAP (£2,407; 1m 6f) (16)

- 2 00-01 JAMESMAD (D) (Mrs D Huxford) 4-9-0
2 01-02 DONNATE (D) (Mrs D Huxford) 4-9-0

YORK

[Televised: 2.45, 3.15, 3.45, 4.15]
GOING: good
Draw advantage: 6f-6f low numbers best on soft ground

- 2.15 EBF UNIVERSITY OF YORK TURF CUP STAKES 2-y-o: £3,219; 5f) (6 runners)
1 01 2421 ABSOLUTE SERVICE (D) (J Bailey) C Leg J Stubbs 9-11
1 02 1 201 STY TO STOP (D) (The Godolphin) M Lenoir 9-11

2.45 SAN JUAN DE CAPISTRANO LIMITED HANDICAP (€2,560; 7f) (8)

- 2 01 41100 AM COMMAND (D) (Mrs P Brown) M Stoute 9-10-0
2 02 41101 AM COMMAND (D) (Mrs P Brown) M Stoute 9-10-0

3.15 EL CAPISTRANO PLAYS STAKES (2-y-o: £4,253; 7f) (8)

- 2 00 00 CAROUSE FLUET (A Saccomanni) J Wilson 9-11
2 01 00 FRENCH ROCKET (J Smith) R Shearer 9-11

3.45 EL CAPISTRANO VILLAS LIMITED HANDICAP (€2,560; 1m 4f) (8)

- 2 01 140-03 TOPHAME TAVENERS (D) (R Topham) G Moore 4-10-0
2 02 140-04 TOPHAME TAVENERS (D) (R Topham) G Moore 4-10-0

4.15 MAIL ON SUNDAY 3-Y-O HANDICAP (€2,444; 7f) (11)

- 2 01 141-04 HO M CHINH (D) (M Chinch) M Lenoir 9-11
2 02 141-05 HO M CHINH (D) (M Chinch) M Lenoir 9-11

4.45 MERCHANT ADVENTURERS MAIDEN STAKES (3-y-o: £2,676; 2m) (9)

- 2 01 43-0022 ANA WASLAWA (D) (Sheikh Al Maktoum) J Hindley 9-0
2 02 43-0023 ANA WASLAWA (D) (Sheikh Al Maktoum) J Hindley 9-0

5.15 FREEMAN OF YORK APPRENTICE HANDICAP (€2,481; 5f) (9)

- 2 00-0004 CLAMBLE (D) (Clemmie Ltd) J Ray 4-8-13
2 01-0004 CLAMBLE (D) (Clemmie Ltd) J Ray 4-8-13

Results from two meetings

- Newbury
2.0 (D) 1. GORGEUS ALGERION (D) 2. Dogmatic (S Cauthen)
2.15 (D) 1. ABSOLUTE SERVICE (D) 2. STY TO STOP (D)
3.15 (D) 1. CAROUSE FLUET (A Saccomanni) 2. FRENCH ROCKET (J Smith)
4.15 (D) 1. HO M CHINH (D) 2. HO M CHINH (D)
5.15 (D) 1. CLAMBLE (D) 2. CLAMBLE (D)

SOME OF OUR FAST MOVING LINES
ESCORT TURBO: Our full road test
MERCEDES 190 V8: A Carillon 5 litre conversion
FIAT UNO TURBO: Faster than a Golf GTI
ALFA ROMEO 75: Puts Alfa back on the map?
Plus PERFORMANCE AUDIO: A free 32 page supplement on car hi-fi

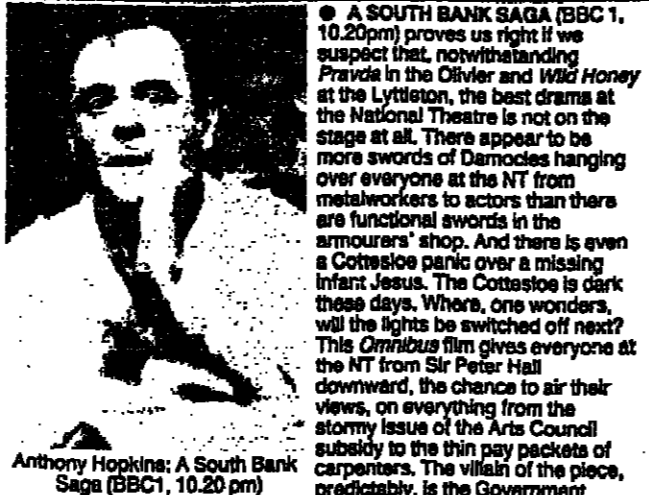
Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

Vertical sidebar containing various advertisements for real estate, travel, and services.

BBC 1 and BBC 2 television schedules listing programs like 'Good Morning Britain', 'The South Bank Saga', and 'The World About Us'.

TV-am and Channel 4 television schedules listing programs like 'The South Bank Saga', 'The World About Us', and 'The Paper Chase'.



Anthony Hopkins: A South Bank Saga (BBC1, 10.20 pm)

CHOICE: I'm not at all sure it's right for the thriller series to be as scurrilous as THE DEAD DEATH (BBC 1, 9.25pm).

LAW IN ACTION is back tonight (Radio 4, 8.20pm) with Joshua Rozenberg still at the helm. Legal

Radio 2: On medium wave it's also VHF 89.90. News on the hour (except 8.00pm and 9.00).

Radio 1: 6.00am Adrian John, 7.00 Mike Reid, 8.00 Simon Bates, 12.00 Gary Davies

Radio 4: 7.30 Pick of the Week, Margaret Howard's selection of TV and radio

Radio 3: 6.55 Weather, 7.00 News, 7.05 Morning Concert, 7.15 The World Tonight

WORLD SERVICE: 6.00 News, 6.30 News, 7.00 News, 7.30 News, 8.00 News

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Radio 3: 6.55 Weather, 7.00 News, 7.05 Morning Concert, 7.15 The World Tonight

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Large section titled 'ENTERTAINMENTS' containing advertisements for theatres, cinemas, and exhibitions.

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June 14, 1985

THE TIMES
FOCUS

THE ROYAL NAVY/1

THE TIMES
1785-1985

In spite of defence cuts the Royal Navy still remains a potent force at sea. This eight page Bicentenary Special Report examines its crucial role today - not forgetting its glorious past

What the Falklands showed us

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent



The Royal Navy is in a better state of health than anyone would have predicted four years ago when it faced the prospect of swinging cuts under the 1981 defence review. The worst of these have been averted: the navy still retains its amphibious assault ships, it will continue to operate three light aircraft carriers, and the force of destroyers and frigates is being run down to a lesser extent than was threatened.

brave. In 1981 and 1982 the Navy, under the then First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Henry Leach, fought vigorously to avert what it saw as potentially disastrous cuts. Then along came the Falklands conflict, the Royal Navy's biggest action since the Second World War, and this transformed its prospects. In the late 20th century it was no longer in the perceived scheme of things that the Royal Navy should be asked to mount a major task force to operate at a range of 8,000 miles, and to land an assault force on a hostile shore without benefit of land-based air support, or even means of receiving early warning of air attack.

brought a perception that if Britain is to maintain a sizeable navy, it has to be capable of operating in a wide variety of roles. Secondly, it demonstrated that in the long years of peace the navy had become too comfortable, and had lost sight of the severity of the stresses which battle produces. The men reacted superbly to those stresses, but deficiencies in the ships and their equipment were exposed. The Argentine was no more than a third rank military power. Apart from the brief, tragic incident of the Belgrano, neither its surface fleet nor its submarines were engaged in the open sea, and for all the courage of the Argentine air force, it failed in the basic requirement of fusing its bombs correctly.

which emit heavy, toxic smoke when ignited are being eliminated, and means of controlling the spread of fire and smoke are being improved. Personal oxygen supplies to enable people to breathe in smoke have been greatly improved. The nightly demoralising naval bombardment of the Argentine positions ashore also reminded people that a frigate is all the more useful if it has a long-range gun. The new frigate, the Type 23 Duke class, will now have such a gun. The exposure by the Argentine planes of the critical lack of an airborne early warning system has led to eight Sea King helicopters being equipped to fulfil that role. They are coming into service this summer.

unsatisfactory that there will not be an air group for every carrier. The navy will be a more effective force as a result of these moves but there are also other factors which have been advancing the Royal Navy's cause. The Soviet navy has for years been extending its reach until now it has virtually world-wide capability. It is primarily the job of the United States navy to counter this development, but it is often politically helpful if the Americans can be seen to be acting in concert with ships of allied navies, such as the British and French. In certain circumstances even the mighty United States navy, building up towards a 600 ship fleet, could find itself over-stretched and it helps the allied cause if the British Navy is able to take up some slack in the naval presence in the Nato area, or to assist in other parts of the world. But if recent world events have assisted the case for maintaining an effective British Navy, the perennial

problem of finding the resources to finance it shows every sign of becoming more acute. The Government is now in the final year of its attempt to meet the Nato target of achieving an annual 3 per cent growth in the real value of defence spending. From next April the objective will be to maintain the real value of spending at its present level. It is a delicate enough task to turn the corner from real growth to zero growth, but there are those who believe that the true prospect could be for some small reduction in the real value of defence spending, and that would present the services with real problems. Spending on naval assets will in any case be running at a high level as the Trident programme gains impetus, and with the need for a substantial level of building of frigates and submarines. Already it looks as though the Navy's wish for a new class of offshore patrol vessel may not materialize for some years.

Readiness, the Navy's watchword

by Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse,
First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff

In this year during which we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War it is tempting to imagine that between then and now we have been at peace. However, it is sad that in this uncertain world conflict is endemic. Indeed in these 40 years there has been only one in which no British serviceman has been killed on active duty.

It is against this background that the Services play their part in ensuring that our country is adequately protected and its people assured the freedom to do their lawful business in the world.

It should be obvious, though I fear it is often overlooked, that in a world 70 per cent covered by sea and with most countries having a coastline, the sea is crucial to an island such as ours. The arteries of world trade are still, seaborne, despite the fact that orchids and avocado pears are flown across the world, and most people travel by air. Well over 90 per cent of all trade and raw material arrives and departs from European countries by sea. The United Kingdom alone needs 300 ship-loads a week to subsist. The point is brought home dramatically when, in a matter of a few weeks at the most, a dock strike puts our well-being seriously at risk. We are a trading nation and need to import raw materials and food and to export finished products, including North Sea oil.

All this has a familiar ring and would have made absolute sense to our forbears over the centuries. From Athens and Carthage, through the Middle Ages and Napoleonic wars to the present times, sea power has shown itself repeatedly to be a necessary adjunct of international position: time and again its possession has conferred supremacy and its denial ensured defeat.

The sea is a huge international medium connecting almost every country, and it affords governments the option to project influence at any level from a patrol vessel up to a carrier battle group without specific commitment or breach of international law. It is against this background that the Royal Navy of today has evolved. In the ensuing articles it will become



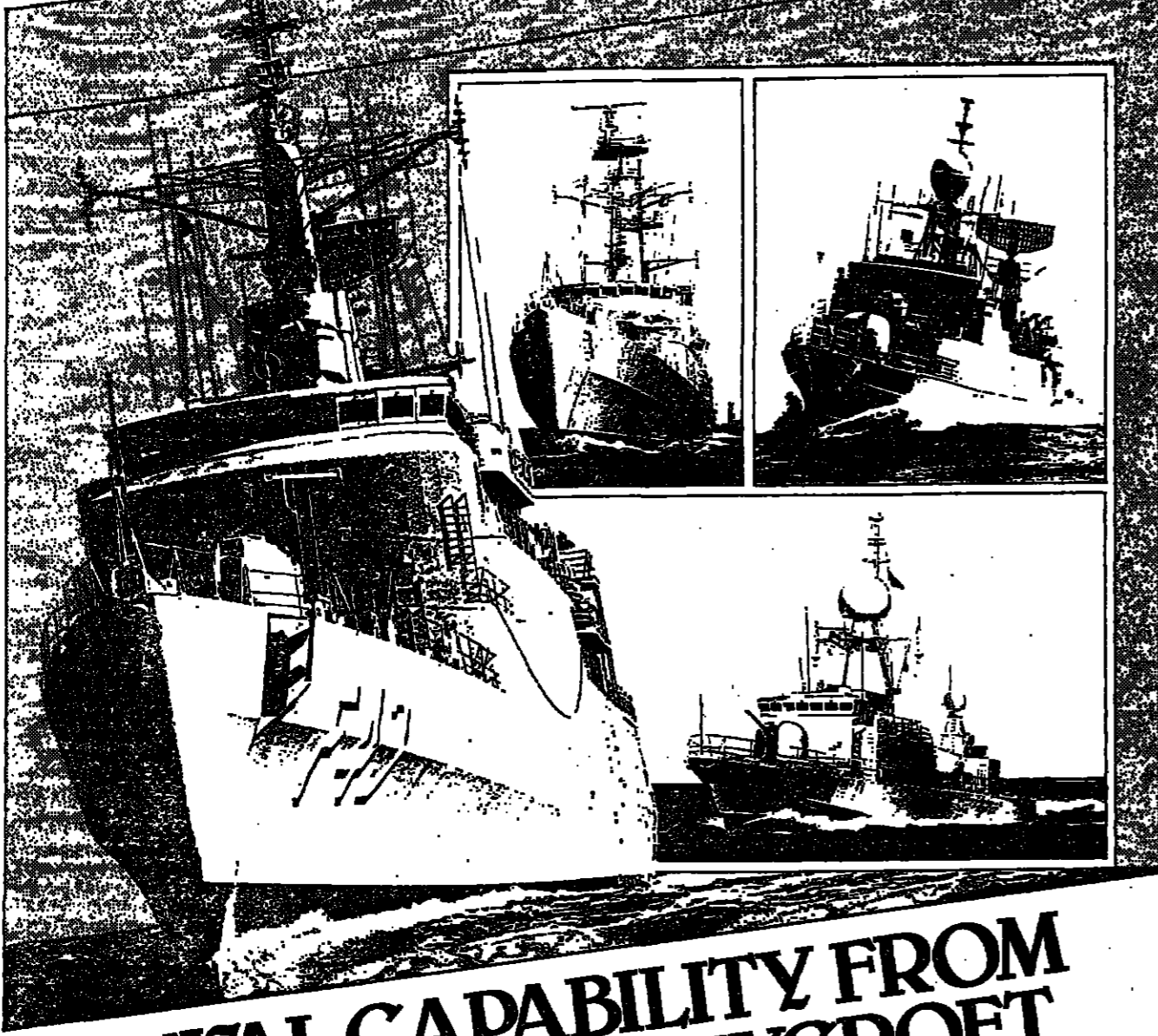
Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse on board HMS Olympus, an Oberon-class submarine: "The price of peace is high and rising"

Page 32: Nato's sheet anchor • Page 33: HMS Active • Page 34: The policing role • Page 35: Britain's protectors • Page 36: Royal Marines and Fleet Air Arm • Page 37: The cost

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THE ROYAL NAVY/2

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The sheet anchor of Nato



Most of Britain's armed forces and 95 per cent of their budgets are now committed to the North Atlantic alliance, whose philosophy of collective security has dominated British defence objectives for 36 years.

Under the old doctrine of massive retaliation, any attack by the Soviet Union on the West would have invited a full-scale nuclear response by the United States and Britain. This awesome threat lost its credibility in the 1960s when it became clear that the Russians were now capable of striking back and causing great damage in the United States. America's protective umbrella might not have started to develop leaks, but the hand that was holding it was beginning to wobble.

Flexible response means that Nato would reply to a Russian attack as the circumstances demanded, reserving the right to "go nuclear" if conventional defences failed.

Flexible response has therefore demanded a "triad" of arms - conventional, tactical nuclear and strategic nuclear - to embrace the concepts of defence and deterrence and convince any likely aggressor that Nato was, to borrow the motto of the Parachute Regiment "Ready for anything."

Meanwhile, the need to find a deterrent less vulnerable than the manned long-range bomber, had led the Americans to develop the Polaris submarine-

launched ballistic missile (SLBM). This was sold to Britain at a bargain price in 1962.

Britain built its own warheads and designed the submarines to carry them. The first of these each armed with 16 missiles, came into service in 1967, the year of flexible response, and three others followed with impressive speed and efficiency. The navy inherited from the RAF the responsibility for bearing the country's ultimate deterrent. It looks as if it will continue to do so during the third generation of the Age of Deterrence. A Government programme to procure the Trident multiple-warhead missile from the United States in succession to Polaris, is still on course despite doubts in Parliament over the impact of its £10,000m cost upon other parts of the defence budget. The first of four new submarines to take over in the 1990s, will be ordered this year.

Tactical nuclear weapons are represented at sea by the bombs of the dual-capable Sea Harriers on board the three Invincible-class aircraft carriers, and by nuclear depth charges. But it is the third, the conventional role with which most people associate the Royal Navy.

The Navy has still the biggest fleet in Western Europe and the third most powerful in the world. As the fleet headquarters in landlocked Northwood, Middlesex, is fond of reminding visitors, Britain still provides 70 per cent of Nato warships in the Eastern Atlantic.

One of the three principal Nato commands, that of the Eastern Atlantic and Channel, is invariably vested in the fleet's own commander-in-chief at Norway to the Straits of Gibraltar, a vast area of sea whose importance to East and West in wartime can hardly be too heavily underscored.

The survival of Western Europe in wartime would depend upon American reinforcements reaching the Old World from the New. Lightly armed troops whose heavy equipment has already been positioned in Germany could be ferried across the Atlantic by air. But others bringing their vehicles with them would in turn depend upon Nato navies keeping the sea lanes open.

The Soviet Union's northern fleet based at Murmansk has more than 180 submarines, nearly 50 of them ballistic missile boats. It follows that the sea area known as the Greenland-Iceland-United Kingdom (GIUK) Gap would be of crucial importance to both sides in the event of global conflict. But so too would the entrance to the Baltic and the huge Soviet ship repair yards in Western Russia.

It is commonly assumed that the Soviet Union would need to take swift action on the outbreak of hostilities to ensure relatively free access for its ships to the North Sea and Atlantic. The least it would need to do would be to get as many submarines as it could, through the GIUK Gap and into open sea before allied action to patrol the gap by force.

But they would also be likely to move against Norway and Denmark, the two Nato countries from which some degree of strategic control might be exercised.

It is envisaged that Britain in wartime would resemble a giant aircraft carrier and transit camp, from which men and supplies would be shipped to the Continent. This too carries immense implications for the "Channel" command hat worn by the commander at Northwood.

But the range of Nato responsibilities, from one part of the "triad" to another, impinges upon the shape of the fleet.

It means, for example, that the Royal Navy has to maintain a balanced fleet. It needs carriers capable of taking anti-submarine helicopters to police the Atlantic sea lanes and Sea Harriers to protect against enemy attack and to support amphibious landings.

It needs escort vessels for convoy duties, armed with anti-aircraft missiles and anti-submarine sonar depth charges and torpedoes. It needs minesweepers and nuclear-powered submarines especially near the approaches to the Clyde where our own Polaris boats pass to and from their base at Faslane. Recent Government announcements have confirmed its intention to maintain 80 destroyers and escorts in the active fleet, which is something of a relief to the Royal Navy.

Henry Stanhope

Readiness is our watchword

continued from page 31

apparent that readiness and flexibility must be the Royal Navy's watchwords in an increasingly dangerous and unpredictable age. Nothing could have demonstrated this more clearly than the Falklands conflict.

The constituent parts of the Task Force, which was an entire cross section of the Royal Navy, together with vital supporting partners, are examined fully later in this report. The Royal Navy is constantly evolving to meet changing circumstances. At the top end is the continuing deployment of the nuclear deterrent to safeguard our national sovereignty and protect us from blackmail. Next is our naval contribution to Nato to defend the vital Atlantic reinforcement links without which Europe cannot survive, and also to provide an ability to deploy maritime forces, which would include our renowned Royal Marine commandos to protect the no less vital northern flank. Finally, and we must not forget this, we have to possess that strategic flexibility necessary to enable us to meet our commitments beyond Nato's boundaries.

Today, for example, there are two frigates in the area of the Gulf, frigates and submarines are deployed in the South Atlantic, and ships in the Caribbean and home waters are specifically detailed to be at immediate notice to meet contingencies.

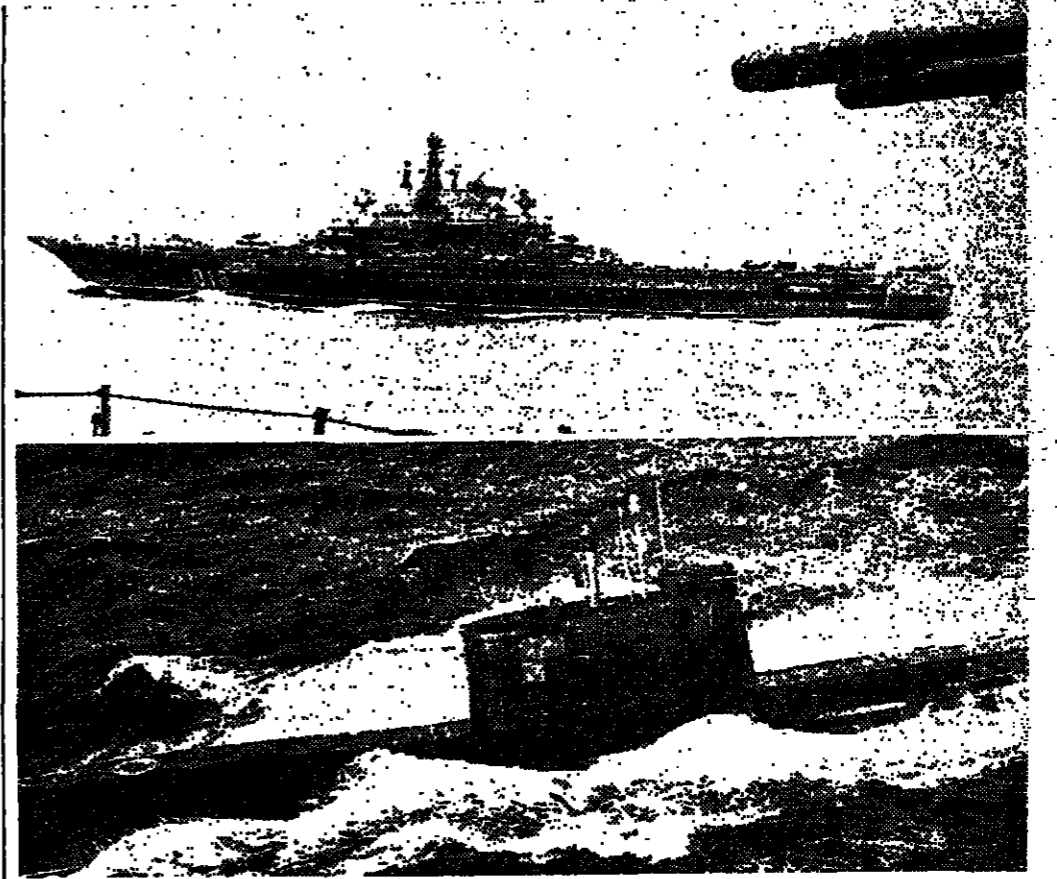
As well as tasks such as these, ships or groups of ships, invariably with Fleet Air Arm units often with Royal Marines embarked, and supported by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and the Royal Navy Supply and Transport Service, are frequently deployed whenever a need to show a presence is perceived.

In addition, our historical links with the Merchant Navy have been strengthened further since the Falklands conflict and the Ministry of Defence, together with the Department of Trade, are keeping a careful watch on the strength of our merchant fleet, which is so much a part of seapower, and upon which we as a country will always rely.

It is an inescapable fact that, with the ever growing capability of potential enemies, the price of peace is high and the value of a fleet must get value for money. That value will inevitably be to a degree a matter of compromise. There must be a core of highly capable ships and submarines; we have them in the current fleet and for the future we look forward to such new classes as the new Type 23 frigate, the Type 2400 conventional submarine and the 'one stop' Replenishment vessel as well as the versatile EH101 helicopter.

However, it is equally necessary to ensure we sustain the overall numbers of ships and aircraft because numbers are essential, as well as high quality. Furthermore the fleet must continue to have an all-round capability to fulfil its purpose and utilize to best advantage the infinite options of the high seas and counter the variable capabilities of the opposing threat.

Finally, as I come to the end of my term as First Sea Lord, I pay tribute to that priceless asset - our people. It is the quality of those with whom I have been lucky enough to serve that remain my most indelible memory and in which I have enormous pride. It is a fortunate nation indeed that is able to produce, year after year, people who sustain so well our enviable national maritime heritage.



Opposition at sea: The Soviet cruiser/carrier Novorossiysk and one of their fleet submarines.

A peep at the opposition

A populous island with a long coastline, dependant for its well-being on external trade, is pretty silly if it is not alert to threat by sea. For the 200 years of *The Times's* existence Britain's alertness has waxed and waned but been generally sufficient to serve the nation's interests, whether it is now or is uncertain.

Because the most severe threat is currently answered by a superpower alliance, Nato, and its options are blocked by the successful doctrine of flexible response, the temptation to complacency is understandable. But the threat is contained, it has not gone away.

Russia has generally had a large navy, to match her very scattered maritime security interests and, sometimes, ambitions. Its quality has varied greatly over the years. What is seen now is an exceptionally powerful upswing in that quality with little or no diminution in numbers.

The Soviet northern fleet alone has some 40 ballistic missile and 140 tactical submarines, over half of them nuclear-powered; 80 major surface combatants, from a jump-jet carrier through powerful cruisers to a modern destroyer and frigate force; more than 300 land-based aircraft including over 100 with anti-ship missiles; a naval infantry brigade with sufficient specialized amphibious shipping; and an increasing number of ocean-going auxiliaries.

Other fleets - Baltic, Black Sea and Pacific - are tailored for their theatres, the Pacific's being particularly powerful and wide-ranging. The Soviet merchant and fishing fleets, respectively fifth and first in world rankings and under firm government control, support both state policy and military potential.

Soviet naval development has not been short on technical innovation. In all fields on, over and beneath the surface, there has been emphasis on missile armament. Earlier reliance on nuclear warheads at long range has been replaced by a diversity of systems, capable at many levels of conflict.

The trend, in the words and aspirations of its chief begetter Admiral Gorshkov, is towards a balanced fleet: a fleet capable of carrying out and sustaining a very wide range of maritime operations. Its material development has been matched, tentatively at first but with increasing confidence, by the deployment and handling of fleet units on, over and beneath the oceans.

A decade and a half ago there were indications that only a small proportion of the ships and submarines were allowed to

deploy out of the local fleet areas; the commanding officers and crews of the rest were too inexperienced to be trusted.

That inhibition seems largely to have disappeared. The resulting flexibility has helped the Soviet Navy to attain its present considerable effectiveness as a diplomatic instrument.

To predict the employment of Soviet maritime forces in conflict is, in keeping with their increased versatility, a much less cut-and-dried business than it used to be.

At lower levels of confrontation or conflict, whether inside or outside the Nato area (and it is worth recalling that at any given moment there are likely to be 40 Soviet units in the Mediterranean and 25 in the Indian Ocean, as well as Atlantic and Pacific activity and directed deployments in other areas from time to time) the Soviet Navy may be expected now to act in a controlled, pragmatic way in pursuit of limited objectives and under careful rules of engagement. If it embarks on warfare at the higher level it is likely to put great emphasis on getting in the first blow, particularly against any perceived threat to the Soviet homeland; but there is less emphasis on its being a "one-shot navy" than there used to be.

Finally, in general war there is a noteworthy preoccupation with the preservation of the ballistic missile submarines in the Barents and Okhotsk Sea "bastions" from which their missiles can reach the US; a quite high proportion of Soviet forces might be assigned to their protection.

small comfort to those nations whose prime interest is in sea use; and particularly to Nato, which surely can foresee no successful outcome to any major campaign unless it retains the use of the Atlantic.

At least, however, the Royal Navy in its contemplation of the Soviet opposition can reflect that the United States Navy is the Russians' main preoccupation. Even in the unlikely, and grisly, circumstances of British-Soviet confrontation without direct US involvement, the Russians would always look over their shoulders.

It is not so with other maritime threats to the United Kingdom's interests. On many occasions over the past three decades the Royal Navy confronted such threats with no likelihood of active United States involvement. The Falklands campaign of 1982 was but the most severe of a set of operations of great diversity that included Kuwait, the Indonesian Confrontation, the support of Belize and the fishing disputes with Iceland.

The scale of opposition can on this evidence vary widely. At the top end of the scale are medium-power maritime forces, typically with a light aircraft carrier and a destroyer-escort force of some dozens, shorebased air support and a small force of conventionally-powered submarines.

A handful of non-Nato navies have such forces. But smaller navies than these can still pack a punch and they are much more numerous. Nearly 30 non-Nato countries operate submarines and more than 70 have missile-armed surface units.

Given the increasing economic importance, and heightened national perceptions, of the sea, particularly among developing countries, there is not much prospect of a placid future in the maritime field.

For, given the increasing economic importance, and heightened national perceptions, of the sea, particularly among developing countries, there is not much prospect of a placid future in the maritime field.

Finally, when looking at the opposition it is unwise to forget the minor threats much closer to home, the rogue ship in the wrong time lane, the pot-smoking fisher, the terrorist, drug-runner or saboteur, the polluter and - even now - the pirate.

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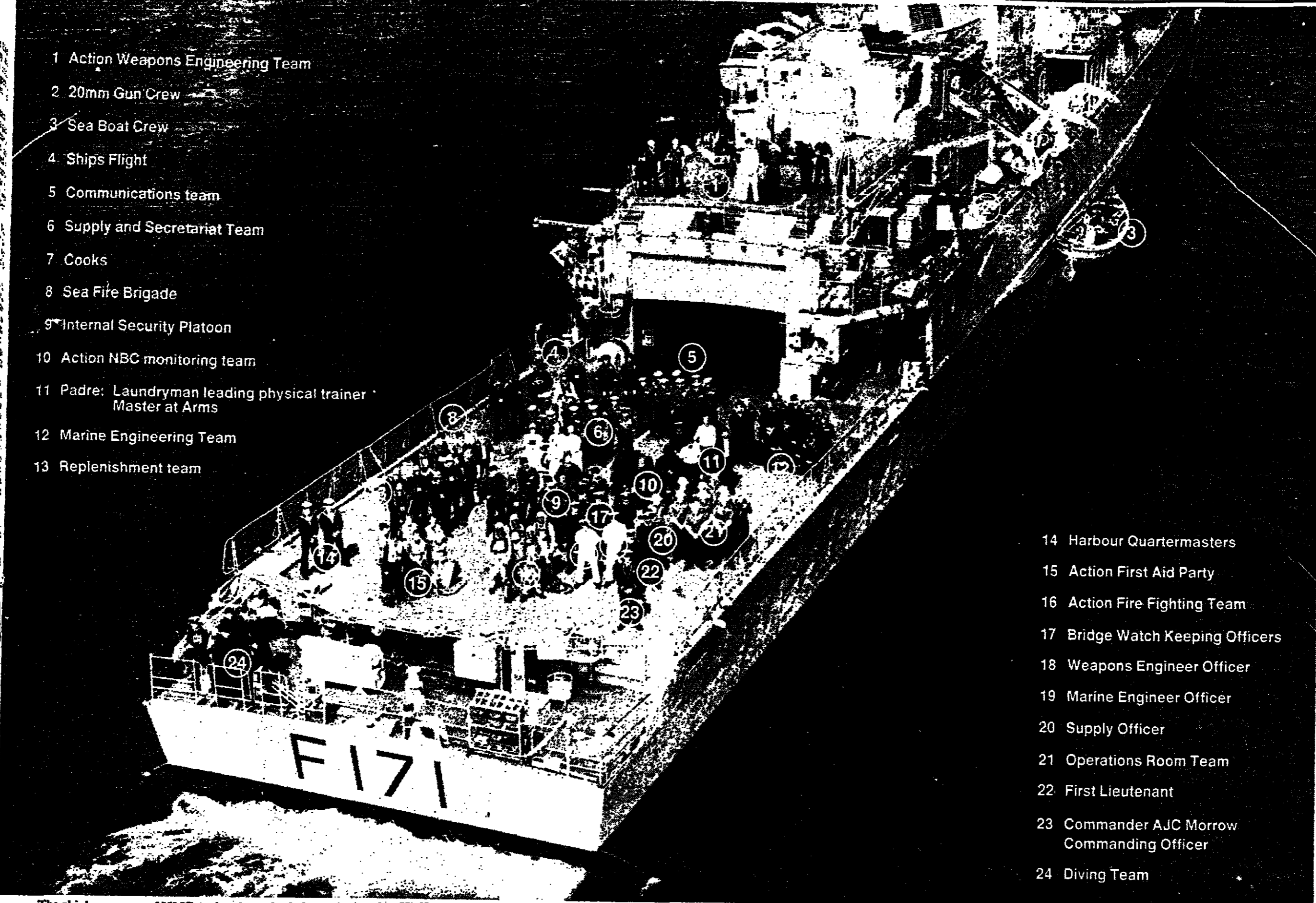
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Nato

But they would also like to move against NATO in Denmark, the two other strategic control exercised. It is envisaged that the carrier would be used as a camp from which supplies would be sent to the Continent. This is the "Channel" command by the commander at wood. But the range of responsibilities from the of the "riad" impinges upon the fleet. It means, for example, the Royal Navy has to carry a balanced fleet of carriers capable of the submarine helicopters, the Atlantic sea lanes to Harriers to protect the enemy attacks and to amphibious landings. It needs escort vessels, aircraft, missiles and submarine sonar and torpedoes. It needs sweepers and mine-layers, approaches to the Channel from their own Polaris bases. Recent Government statements have confirmed intention to mine destroyers and escort active fleet, which is seen as a relief to the Royal Navy.

Henry Shanks

- 1 Action Weapons Engineering Team
- 2 20mm Gun Crew
- 3 Sea Boat Crew
- 4 Ships Flight
- 5 Communications team
- 6 Supply and Secretariat Team
- 7 Cooks
- 8 Sea Fire Brigade
- 9 Internal Security Platoon
- 10 Action NBC monitoring team
- 11 Padre: Laundryman leading physical trainer Master at Arms
- 12 Marine Engineering Team
- 13 Replenishment team



- 14 Harbour Quartermasters
- 15 Action First Aid Party
- 16 Action Fire Fighting Team
- 17 Bridge Watch Keeping Officers
- 18 Weapons Engineer Officer
- 19 Marine Engineer Officer
- 20 Supply Officer
- 21 Operations Room Team
- 22 First Lieutenant
- 23 Commander AJC Morrow Commanding Officer
- 24 Diving Team

The ship's company of HMS Active shown in their specialist roles. HMS Active is an Amazon Class Type 21 frigate with a crew of 170. This picture was taken for The Times by Richard Cooke from the ship's Lynx helicopter

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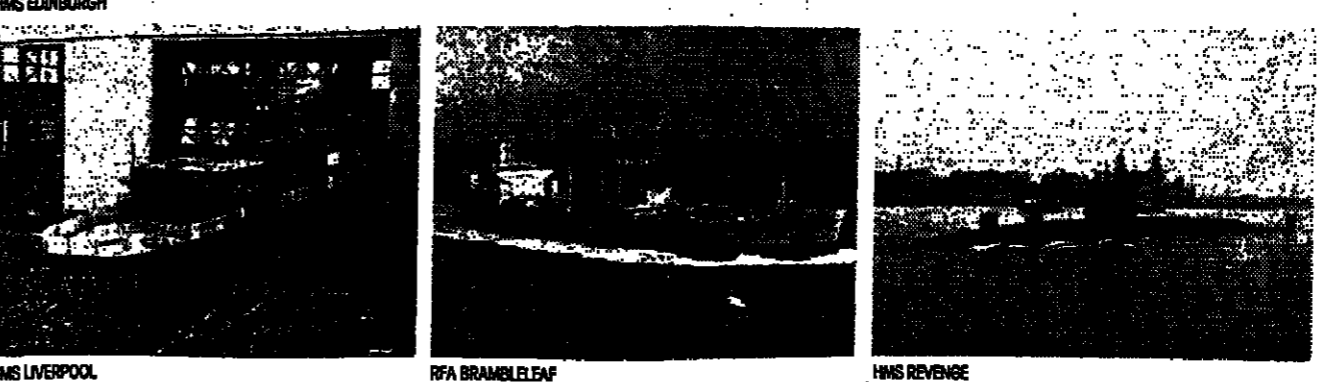
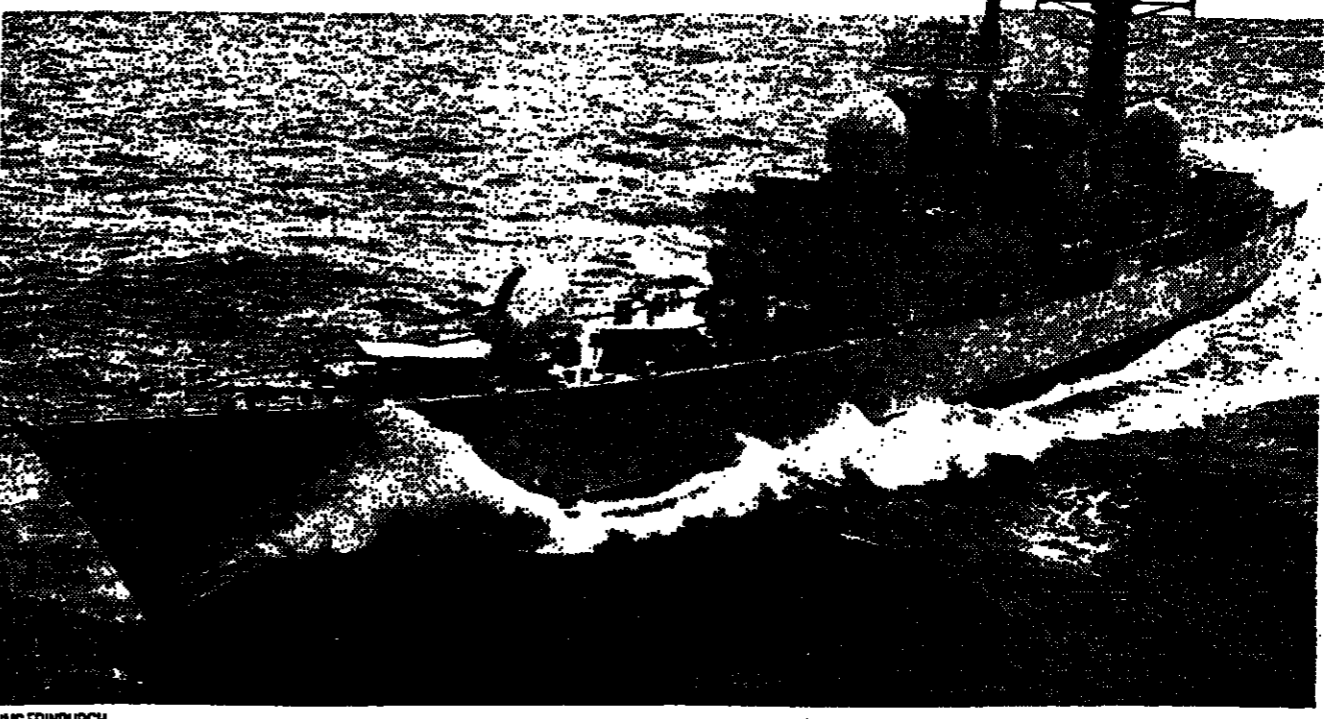
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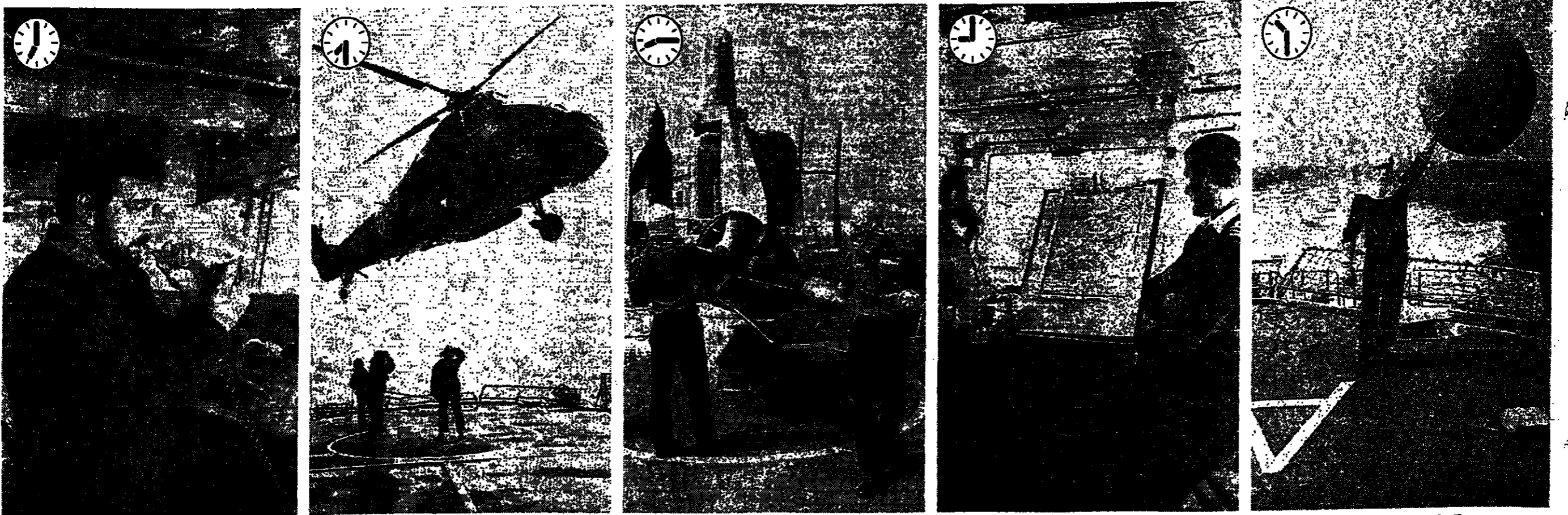


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The first test of a major naval power is its ability to move freely around the world and deploy its forces with complete flexibility. A naval presence, ranging from a single frigate through an amphibious landing force to a formidable carrier battle group of the United States Navy may cruise in international waters, but close enough to land to cast a shadow on events. It may be viewed as a benign willingness to exercise a calming influence, or it may constitute an outright threat of imminent military intervention.

This flexibility of purpose is matched by a range of means which stretches all the way from white uniforms and officers at a cocktail party on a goodwill visit to a port, to all-out military action combining surface, submarine, land and air forces, such as was seen in the Falkland Islands.

With the demise of the big aircraft carriers with their steam catapults, the Royal Navy can no longer match the power of the American carrier groups with their long range offensive air power and the multi-layers of air defences stretching over several hundred miles.

It still does, however, as the Falklands showed, retain the ability to put to sea an autonomous force backed by the logistic support of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and ships of the merchant navy.

In the war the sea is at least as dangerous a place to be as the land, and arguably more dangerous, for to the common hazards of surface and air attack is added the threat of submarine attack. This multiple threat means that an effective naval force has to blend a range of responses to every threat, with submarines, surface ships and aircraft, whether sea- or land-based, co-operating to close off every threat.

In the Falklands the combination of elements of naval power produced an unexpectedly rapid military success. The surface ships got the troops and their supplies ashore, after the tragic incident of the Belgrano the presence of British submarines ensured that the Argentine ships stayed close to port; and the carrier-based Sea Harriers of the Royal Navy and Harriers of the Royal Air Force performed prodigies. Nevertheless, the whole operation was potentially at risk from one

deficiency: the force lacked long range warning of air attack and in consequence had a desperate struggle to keep the Argentine air force at bay. Now that the Royal Navy no longer has battleships, nor (with HMS Hermes now in reserve) an aircraft carrier of more than 20,000 tons, its capital ships are its submarines.

There is the obvious, even if mostly invisible, power of the Polaris vessels carrying the strategic nuclear missiles. However, they are the Domsday weapon, and it is the nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarines and the diesel-powered Oberon-class patrol

submarines which integrate most closely with the surface fleet, combining with them in exercises against notional enemy submarines, or maintaining a baleful, if unseen, presence off the Falkland Islands.

Whatever the strains on financial resources, and however intense the debate about the future size and shape of the surface fleet, it seems likely that means will be found to maintain the force of hunter-killer and patrol submarines.

However it is also time that one of the most obvious areas of concern is the fact that all but one of the Royal Navy's diesel-powered Oberon class submarines are over 20 years old. At present there is only one replacement for these submarines - the first of the new Type 2400 Upholder class - under construction.

It will require a substantial and sustained rate of ordering over several years if the transition from the Oberon class to the Upholder class is to be accomplished without a dip in numbers for a few years. However, the Ministry of Defence is already examining tenders for the construction of the second, third and fourth Type 2400 submarines.

This demand on resources coincides with an equally pressing need to step up the rate of ordering of new frigates. Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, has already indicated his intention to order three Type 23 Duke class frigates next year, but this rate will have to be sustained for five or six years if the Government is to reach its target of 50 reasonably modern destroyers and frigates; such a rate has not been sustained since the 1960s.

One area in which the navy's position is stronger than seemed possible a few years ago, when Sir John Nott was starting to lay about him with his axe, is that of naval aviation. The Government intends to maintain three invulnerable class light aircraft carriers with, normally, two operational and one in refit.

The dependence on the short-take off Sea Harrier means that British naval aviation is no longer in the same league as the big American carriers with their variety of aircraft launched by steam catapult.

The two assault ships HMS Fearless and HMS Intrepid had only recently been rerieved from being scrapped when the South Atlantic suddenly produced the perfect demonstration of the need for "amphibiousity".

Though the need to retain an amphibious capability is now much more readily accepted by Government than it was in 1981, a fair amount of sucking of gums is now going on over the question of what should replace Fearless and Intrepid in the mid-1990s.

The outstanding feature of the Falklands conflict was not as a feat of arms, but as a feat of logistics. To carry over 25,000 men and their supplies 8,000 miles was a huge undertaking. It could not have been accomplished without the back-up of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and the STUFT ships - ships taken up from trade - of the merchant navy.

Another area of naval activity which will clearly be affected by developments in the civilian field is that of offensive and defensive operations involving mines. Overall, the Royal Navy still remains one of the great navies of the world - though on a much smaller scale than either the American or Russian fleets - and it just about retains the necessary balance in the areas of surface ships, submarines, naval aviation and amphibious capability to be able to mounting a general naval operation. Nevertheless that balance is precarious, and is constantly at risk as defence competes for resources against other national demands, and the three Services jostle for position in claims on the defence budget.



The one thing that can be forecast with any certainty about the next war is that it will be totally unlike what we have planned for. This might sound over-cynical amid the dying echoes of the Falklands War, whose air-sea battles resembled those of 1939-45, however different the weapons.

But who might have predicted in 1981 that a year later British troops, ardently trained to defend western Europe against the Soviet Union, would be fighting Argentina in the South Atlantic?

The Falklands War, whatever its rights and wrongs, thus proved two things - first, that the country's commitment to the residual legacy of the British Empire remained more than paper-thin; and second that Britain was still capable of sustaining an active operation on that scale, half the world away, despite the Nato bias in its force planning. Moreover, it was capable of doing so after being taken by surprise.

On the other hand the war justified the doubts of those who have argued for some time that the most likely threats to peace in our time will come not from Europe and its surrounding seas, but from parts of the world far beyond the protective embrace of the North Atlantic alliance. While this does not invalidate the Nato philosophy which has given shape to British defence policy for more than 30 years, it questions once more the provisions made to deal with out-of-area issues.

Britain is something of a special case. Old imperial commitments, economic as well as security, have complicated loyalties which for most of its European allies are simpler to manage.

But the out-of-area argument stretches far beyond the old imperial connection. Most unofficial pundits who engaged in the once fashionable exercise of hypothesizing over a third world war decided that its flashpoint would be found not in the heavily defended West, where *de facto* spheres of influence have been carefully drawn and observed since the Second World War, but in areas like the Middle East where the lines are less disciplined.

The United States, by virtue of its huge resources, has taken over the role of world policeman once performed by this country in the era of the Pax Britannica. United States support was an important element in the Falklands War.

But for political, rather than military reasons Washington welcomes allied participation in operations where western interests in general are at stake. And Britain by virtue of its experience and maritime capability is best placed to contribute.

The Royal Navy's permanent presence outside the Nato area is painfully thin. An undisclosed number of frigate-

destroyers, with submarines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) support ships in attendance, remain in the Falklands, patrolling the 150-mile protection zone round the islands.

Four and eventually five of the new Peacock-class patrol ships will remain on station off Hong Kong, where they have replaced a squadron of old Ton-class minesweepers, until the colony is passed back to China in 1997. Hong Kong itself

the responsibility of shipping in more. As materials often have to come from beyond the Nato area, Britain and other allies would rely heavily on the co-operation of other navies to ensure their safe passage.

The Foreign Office moreover has a strong vested interest in preserving good relations with other governments in peacetime. Its considerations are therefore taken into account at a very early stage in planning

Government at home in touch with developments during the American intervention in Grenada nearly two years ago, when other means of communication were unreliable.

The argument therefore is not over whether Britain should continue to sail beyond Nato's sphere of influence. It is over whether more of Britain's resources should be devoted to doing so. To deploy forces worldwide on a permanent

Policing the far horizons . . .



An unexpected war: Casualties landing on HMS Hermes during the Falkland campaign

already pays the bulk of its defence costs.

Two frigate-destroyers are kept in the Indian Ocean, with an RFA tanker, on the so-called Armilla patrol. A guardship still cruises round the Caribbean. But a frigate is no longer permanently stationed at Gibraltar - although one often calls there. And that is it.

Every other year, however, the Navy usually undertakes a long-term task force deployment, which might involve a carrier, escorts and a submarine of two, more often than not in the Far East. Ships conduct a number of exercises en route with allied navies - those for instance belonging to the five-power defence agreement in South-East Asia (Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore). They also make a large number of port visits.

The Ministry of Defence is planning such a deployment for next year, during which the question of whether nuclear-capable warships will be allowed into New Zealand ports could cause complications.

One advantage of these biennial sorties is that they enable the Navy to test the efficacy of its equipment - and its men - in a variety of climates and conditions.

The exercises conducted on the way also provide a valuable opportunity to make contact with allies upon whom Britain may have to depend rather heavily for support in wartime. If a third world war lasted longer than Nato seems to think it would, the limited supply of strategic materials maintained by Britain could soon expire, giving the mercantile marine

distant deployments. A port call on a friendly nation represents not so much gunboat as gin-bottle diplomacy.

With 30 per cent of the country's gross domestic product coming from exports, the maintenance of peace and stability in the Third World is of considerable importance to Britain. How much influence the presence of a Royal Navy gunboat can have on this is arguable. But it can at least be a valuable communications link, or a fact-finder for the Government at home.

It was the Caribbean guardship which kept the

basis would seem unwise given that defence resources in Britain are unlikely ever to be unlimited. Nato must remain the highest priority. But should the Government ensure that if an emergency occurred Britain could respond more easily?

The Falklands War proved that Britain could respond - but only just and at a price. Would we be contributing more towards Nato in the long-term by investing less in, say, our army in West Germany and more in the Navy overseas? The question is deeply divisive and the answers by no means easy.

Henry Stanhope

Enquiries to Defence Marketing Department

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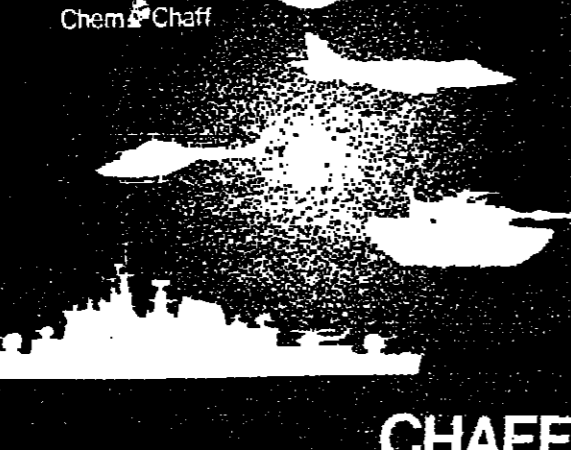
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THE ROYAL NAVY/5



... Preparing lunch in the galley; the captain berths the ship; sailors relax at the end of the day. Pictures Richard Cooke.

... safeguarding the home front



The development of air power and long-range missiles would have shocked John of Gaunt, prattling about Britain being "this fortress built by Nature for herself" in Shakespeare's Richard II. Indeed, the evaporation of the Channel as a protective moat, actually did shock a generation of governments who reacted by neglecting what used to be known as the home front. The solution was seen to be nuclear deterrence and forward defence - stopping the enemy in his tracks long before he reached Calais.

This is largely still the case. But in recent years ministers have also been obliged to turn their attention to the "shortfalls in capability" which, this year's Defence White Paper admitted, had built up here at home.

There are a number of reasons for this counterbalancing act. They fall under two main headings - the adoption of flexible response as Nato's strategy with the new emphasis on conventional defence, and the adoption of a 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) with the concomitant development of the North Sea oil and gas wells.

In wartime the United Kingdom would become not only a forward base for ships and aircraft operating in the Eastern Atlantic but a support base for troops on the Continent. It follows that entry and exit to and from our ports must be safeguarded.

The most serious threat to our coastal approaches is expected to arise during the period of tension preceding a war, when covert minelaying must be expected by Soviet merchantmen in home waters. As many as 1,400 merchant ship visits by Warsaw Pact countries excluding the Soviet Union, and 1,300 by the Soviet Union itself were made to Britain last year.

The initial Soviet objective would be to impede our own naval deployments at the start of hostilities - to which must be added the later purpose of obstructing the passage of troopships and freighters to and from the Continent.

But Nato's mines countermeasures (MSM) forces have been halved during the last 20 years as old vessels have been withdrawn and have not been adequately replaced. Many of those still in service are moreover in the twilight of their active lives.

In recent years there has been some realization of the need for rapid and effective replenishment. Eight of the sophisticated, multi-role Hunt class are now in service with three more under construction. Four River class minesweepers are also in service with the Royal Naval Reserve while eight more are being built - at a cost of £4.5 million each - should, like the other Hunts, be ready by 1987.

Shrinking merchant fleet causing concern

This year's White Paper also confirmed that tenders have been invited for the new class of Single Role Minehunters (SRMH). These will be equipped with a new variable-depth anti-mine sonar, now being developed by Plessey, which should be effective against the latest Soviet mines. Meanwhile feasibility studies are under way on a new British sea mine for defensive operations which will help protect our own waters from enemy operations.

Defence together with the Ministry of Transport has commissioned a study of the problem and its consequences, which should be out soon.

Mines clearance is at least a problem which becomes acute only in wartime. Not so that which involves policing the country's 200-mile EEZ, which has added to the complexities of naval planning ever since the concept was adopted.

The job of warding off illegal poachers in Britain's fishing ground is straightforward enough, if difficult at all times to manage. The additional task of protecting the oil and gas fields from terrorists or any other peacetime threat, adds another dimension.

In wartime much of the protection duty around our shores would devolve upon our destroyer-escort fleet and our diesel-electric patrol submarines. (The first of the new class of Type-2400 conventional submarines, HMS Upholder, is now under construction as replacement for the long-serving Oberon-class boats).

rig or perhaps a Nimrod maritime reconnaissance aircraft - rather than keep a detachment of light fast patrol boats near the coast, relying upon their speed to get to the trouble spot on time. The difference very much resembles that between the village policeman doing his rounds and his more modern colleague in his car. One certainly wonders why the Island-class could not have been made a little nipper than its 16 knots allows, and why a helicopter landing facility could not have been provided.

The extension of national

rights at sea has meant that Britain now has 270,000 square miles of sea to protect - including a coastline totalling more than 7,700 miles in length. At present the Royal Navy has only one warship for every 64 miles of British coastline. While it would seem capricious to suggest that the Controller should make the protection of our shores his top priority, given the many other calls upon his budget, one might legitimately argue the case for investment in a small contingent of fast attack, missile-armed craft.

The days of hauling ropes, swigging rum and lighting blue

Dockyard cuts raise ship shortage fears

Modern warships are among the most highly complex and sophisticated pieces of equipment around. With Royal Navy ships spending more time at sea they need considerable maintenance and repair to ensure their reliability. The shore support provided by the naval bases has to be first rate.

But as a result of the 1981 defence review, two of the five naval dockyards capable of doing this work have been closed in the last couple of years and a third has been scaled down.

The Government's plan for the two remaining royal dockyards is for more streamlining and efficiency. To this end Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, said he will announce a programme for their semi-privatisation before the Common's summer recess.

Devonport, near Plymouth, and Rosyth, on the Firth of Forth are the country's two main naval bases as well as the last of the big naval dockyards. Together they employ some 27,000 civilians, most of whom are involved in dockyard work repairing all the navy's nuclear-powered submarines, including polaris, and nearly all the conventional fleet.

Mr David Lewis, head of the Ministry of Defence's dockyard secretariat in London, "The modern sailor is a highly proficient technician."

"The hull of a ship goes around an impressive array of propulsion machinery, weapons, sensor systems, computers and, in some cases, aircraft and helicopters with their own weapons, sensors and computers. So the shore support must be able to cope."

Refits, done at Rosyth and Devonport, are more complicated than building. About every four or five years ships and submarines go in for rigorous servicing, repairs and the fitting of new equipment. This can take more than a year.

To speed up the process and get the ship back to sea as soon as possible there is "refit by replacement", whereby an old unit such as a sonar will be taken out whole and replaced by a new one.

royal dockyards - with the aim of getting "full value from the defence budget" - was announced by Mr Heseltine in April.

The main objectives set out by Mr Heseltine were: "First, local managers must have the freedom and authority to manage in a more competitive environment. Second, the dockyards as suppliers of services to the fleet must be separated clearly from their customer. Third, their financial and accounting arrangements must reflect normal commercial practice so that the true price of the work can be judged."

The Government favours a system of commercial management under which each dockyard, while remaining in government ownership, would be operated for a period of years by a company under contract. This would need legislation and would not happen before 1987. But before then there are to be 2,000 job losses at Devonport and 400 at Rosyth in a bid to improve productivity in the short term.

The dockyards did a tremendous job during the Falklands campaign preparing warships for sea, even though some men had already received their redundancy notices. In addition, 46 merchant ships were requisitioned and converted in an average of four days each.

Run down the yards even further, say the critics, and in a similar crisis the navy would be short of ships. The Government's answer is that it wants to increase efficiency, not cut capability. The royal dockyards, together with the commercial yards which have recently been doing some refits for the Navy, would be able to cope.

Heseltine aims for value for money

Between refits, ships go into dry dock for shorter periods for the rectification of any defects that have occurred. In certain cases there is also a "capability update period" where a ship is fitted with more advanced equipment to keep it at the forefront of modern technology. At other times crews, with some naval support, maintain their ships themselves.

In the past, many ships went in for mid-life modernization, which was much more substantial than refitting. But because of the cost - up to £80 million - these are no longer carried out.

The Government's intention of changing the structure of the

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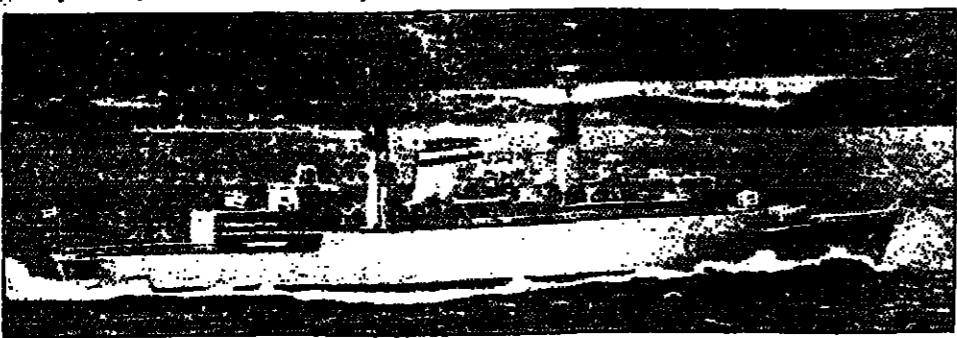
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Flying men among the ships

Although it has been subject to many reductions and changes of role since the end of the Second World War, naval aviation continues to be a vital element in the Royal Navy's overall strength, and there are plans to expand it. These plans include the modernization of the vertical take-off and landing Sea Harrier, and the acquisition of 50 of the new EH101 helicopters which Britain is developing in partnership with Italy.

Two significant points stand out in the recent history of the Fleet Air Arm as this section of the service is still generally called. The first of these was the paying-off in 1978 of the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal, the handing over of her Phantom fighters and Buccaneer bombers to the Royal Air Force, and the scrapping of the Gannet airborne early warning aircraft.

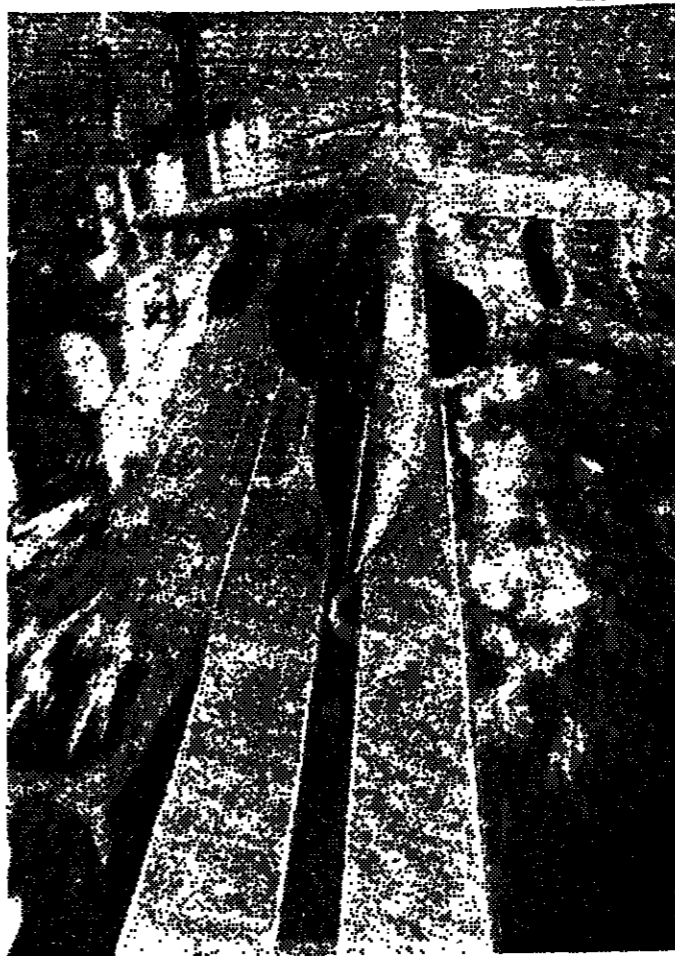
Naval aviation thus lost its independent role, and its ability to deliver nuclear weapons.

The second significant point was the Falklands War against Argentina in the summer of 1982 when the Fleet Air Arm's helicopters and Sea Harriers made an important contribution to the success of the campaign. Naval aviation's performance in that campaign did not go unnoticed in Whitehall, and although funds for the procurement of new aircraft and for the updating of those already in service, remain tight, the principle that the arm should continue is accepted, and its future seems assured.

A squadron of Sea Harriers is now embarked on each of the Royal Navy's two Invincible class anti-submarine carriers, HMS Invincible and HMS Illustrious. These ships will shortly be joined by the new HMS Ark Royal, making it the first time three carriers of the same class have been in service with the Royal Navy in more than 20 years, but no decision has yet been made as to which squadron will be based on board.

The two present seaborne Sea Harrier squadrons are 800 and 801, based up by 899 at the Fleet Air Arm base at Yeovilton, Somerset. Although 899 has the training role, it is also a front-line squadron and is ready to go to sea at short notice.

A total of 60 Sea Harriers are either in service or on order, and what is known as the "mid-life update" of these British Aerospace aircraft has been agreed, and will take place between 1987 and 1991. The main features of this update will



The Sea Harriers and helicopters of the Fleet Air Arm made an important contribution to the success of the Falklands campaign - this performance did not go unnoticed in Whitehall

be the adapting of the Sea Harrier to carry the advanced medium-range air-to-air Arnam missile, plus the sophisticated pulse-doppler radar suite which goes with it.

This will give the aircraft "beyond visual range" intercept capability, but they will continue to carry short-range Sidewinder missiles, which are also to be improved.

Fleet Air Arm helicopters perform a wide variety of roles, from detecting and destroying submarines to landing Royal Marine commandos. Royal Marine commandos, from perpetuating the arm's traditional role as the eyes and ears of the fleet to searching for and rescuing survivors of wrecked aircraft and ships.

The newest helicopter squadron, 849, was formed directly as a result of the need shown up by the Falklands

embarked on board the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Reliant.

Two other squadrons which operate anti-submarine Sea Kings are 824, which has a trials responsibility, and is ready to embark aircraft on ships of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, and 819, which is based ashore at Prestwick, Scotland.

Two squadrons, 829 and 815, both based at Portland, supply individual helicopters for the Navy's small ships, the former flying the Wasp, the latter the Lynx.

Wasp are on board 16 ships, while there are 53 Lynx in operational and training use, many serving with County class destroyers, Leander class frigates, and Type 21, 22 and 42 class ships.

Every aircraft is crewed by a pilot, an observer and up to nine maintainers. The main task of the ship-borne flights is anti-submarine, and the Lynx is equipped with the Skua air-to-surface missile. Lynx modernization will begin in 1988.

For its commando-support role, the Fleet Air Arm operates two front-line squadrons, 845 with Wessex helicopters, and 846 with Sea Kings. A total of 20 Sea King Commandos are in service, and a further nine are on order for delivery during the next two years, when they are expected to form a further front-line squadron. Anti-submarine Sea Kings are to be updated during the next three years and will be given radars with greater definition of contacts, and sonars which will operate at greater depths.

Behind these front-line squadrons are a number of second-lines, all with numbers starting with seven, performing search and rescue, pilot training, and several other specialized roles, and operating a variety of aircraft including the Gazelle, Jetstream, Chipmunk, Canberra, Hunter and Falcon 20.

The Fleet Air Arm awaits the arrival into service of the EH 101, a sophisticated three-engine aircraft which, in its civil version, will seat more than 30 passengers, with eagerness.

The first batch will be allocated, they arrive in the early 1990s, to individual ships in the fleet as Lynx replacements, but it is hoped that further purchases could be used to replace Sea Kings in the airborne early warning and commando roles in the longer-distant future.

Arthur Reed



Though one of the most illustrious formations in the armed forces, the Royal Marines, have had to fight for survival over the years. In the mid-1970s, and again in 1981, serious questions were raised about the need to retain the amphibious capability. On both occasions the Marines survived.

Their contribution was fundamental to the success of the Falklands operation, and the increasing importance being attached to the defence of Norway and the seas around it, as well as the need for Britain to retain an ability to operate outside the Nato area, have all helped to place their continued existence beyond doubt. What is, however, uncertain is how well equipped they will be to fulfil their role.

In the 1981 defence review it was originally intended to dispose of the assault ships, HMS Fearless and Intrepid, which would have emasculated the Navy's ability to mount an

Marines win the survival battle

amphibious operation. Both ships are to have refits which will enable them to continue in service for another 10 years.

Even so, Britain's ability to deploy amphibious forces has been diminished through the withdrawal from the active fleet of HMS Hermes. However, with two assault ships, about six logistics landing ships (LSLs) and the possibility of using the Invincible-class carriers to carry Marines, Britain for the moment maintains a reasonable capacity for deploying amphibious forces.

The assault ships and several LSLs will need replacement by the middle of the 1990s, and the question exercising the Royal Marines and the Royal Navy is what form these replacements will take, and whether they will provide an adequate basis for the Corps' operations.

Lieutenant-General Sir Stuart Pringle, who retired last year as Commandant-General of the Royal Marines, has argued that Britain should retain an ability to deploy at least two-thirds of its amphibious force in specialist shipping.

However, it is estimated that a direct replacement of the assault ships and the LSLs could cost up to £800 million, and there are doubts whether resources could be found on that scale. Various options are being studied, but Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, has said that he does not expect them to come to him for decision until about the middle of next year.

Meanwhile, the Marines are seeking remedies for deficiencies in other equipment. They are particularly concerned that they lack an area air defence weapon, and are pressing for Rapier missiles. In addition they are seeking an additional artillery battery, more engineering support, and possibly some armoured reconnaissance vehicles.

One of their difficulties is that such equipment would be largely manned by the Army, which is already struggling to find enough manpower for its own needs.

An important aspect of modern amphibious operations is the ability to put men and equipment ashore by helicopter.

Sir Stuart has set the requirement as being to be able to land 300 men simultaneously, with equipment and support weapons. For this purpose 24 Sea King Mark IV helicopters are operated by the Commando Helicopter Operations and Support Cell of the Fleet Air Arm.

It has been suggested that the range of these helicopters such that in a period of tension they would be able to fly to Norway. However, their general effectiveness will be dependent on the availability of shipping from which to operate.

The helicopters spend three or four months every winter training with 3 Commando Brigade in the arctic conditions of Norway. It is as arctic warfare specialists that the Corps is probably now most famous, but it is not their only concern. 1 Commando is not trained in arctic or mountain warfare, and its likely war role would be in the Baltic area, or in Norway in summer, or on the Atlantic islands.

Apart from the mainline war roles, the Royal Marines have a number of other specialist tasks, which are carried out by special units such as the Special Boat Squadron, the raiding squadrons, and the Comacchio Group, which is responsible for guarding the North Sea oil and gas installations against terrorist or other attack.

On top of that some marines are trained in jungle warfare, and most will at times be involved in conventional infantry duties, for example in Northern Ireland.

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"It is upon the navy under the Providence of God that the safety, honour and welfare of this realm chiefly attend." Charles II



King Charles acted upon his conviction of the Navy's importance by doing much to make it more effective.

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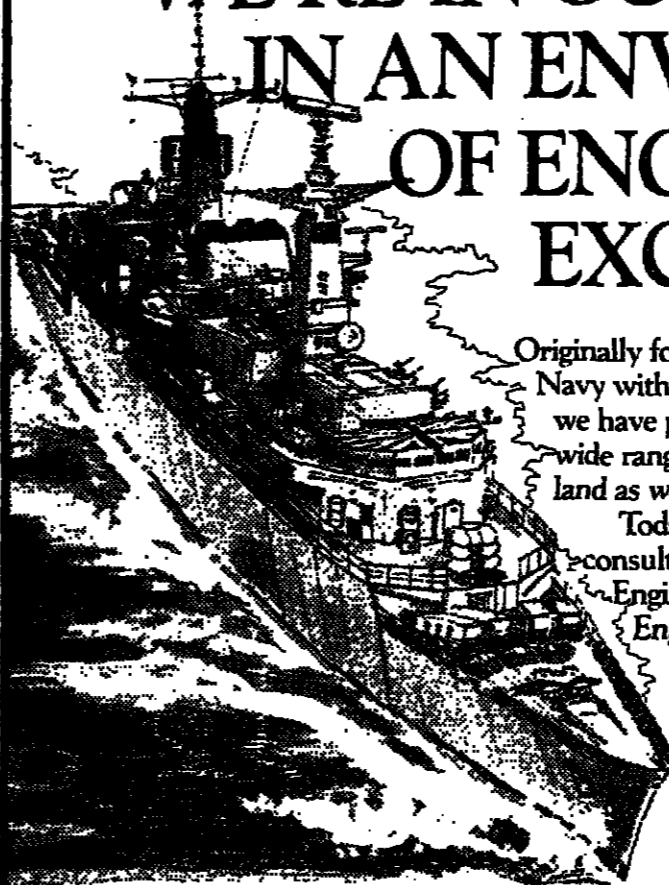
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FOCUS

THE ROYAL NAVY/7

The cost of ruling the waves



The Royal Navy is one of British industry's largest single customers. The Ministry of Defence bill for naval equipment (including repair work) runs to £2,000 million a year, having roughly doubled in the last five years. This includes everything from ships and submarines costing over £100 million each to the smallest bar of soap. A further £400 million is being spent each year on the development of the Navy's anticipated needs, such as missiles, electronic warfare systems and more sophisticated sonars. Much of this work is carried out in partnership with leading defence contractors.

With these kind of sums around, it is hardly surprising that a Tory government intent on controlling public spending should take a keen interest in the Navy's procurement activities. Since Mr Heseltine took over as Secretary of State for Defence two years ago, he has introduced a series of changes designed to ensure that the Government gets better value for money.

The changes include more competitive tendering for contracts, the ending of the old "preferred source" system of favoured contractors (for example, Marconi's historically dominant position in the naval radar field), and the gradual introduction of more fixed-price contracts to replace the old cost-plus-fixed-profit formula.

Flexible specifications raise hopes for export orders

These changes apply to all the services, but there is one innovation in which the Navy has played a prominent role: the so-called Cardinal Points Specification system, intended to be a more flexible way of specifying equipment.

Industrialists have often complained that over-ambiguous and detailed specifications have involved them in manufacturing such sophisticated equipment that the potential for export has been lost. The new system lays down minimum specifications - the "cardinal points" - but leaves it to contractors to design much more of the peripherals.

The most notable test of the new system has been in the ordering of equipment for the new Type 23 frigates, expected to start coming into service in the late 1980s. A contract for surveillance radar for the new ships, for example, was awarded recently to Plessey, whose winning design was a radar that it had already sold to Nigeria - and which cost less than its predecessor on the Type 22s. According to a recent analysis by defence experts at the

Jonathan Davis
Business Correspondent



The American Harpoon, ordered by the Royal Navy

	Navy Spending			
	1982-83	1983-4	1984-85	1985-86
Submarines	463	468	322	408
Aircraft and ASW carriers	71	140	94	78
Amphibious forces	52	60	78	81
Destroyers and frigates	636	722	881	738
Mine counter-measures vessels	150	159	137	145
Other vessels	204	285	466	452
Aircraft	198	242	312	291
Fleet headquarters	28	24	123	119
Overseas shore establishments	61	49	61	37
Naval bases and operational support	-	-	209	156

Source: Defence Estimates, 1985

The ordering of the new frigates which the Navy says it needs to maintain its operating capacity is finally under way after months of delays which had led to renewed speculation about cuts in the strength of the surface fleet. The first of the new frigates was ordered from the Yarrow yard on Clydeside last year, and Mr Heseltine has announced that he intends to place a second order for the £110 million ships with Swan Hunter on Tyneside. The announcement, in January, was accompanied by news that two long outstanding orders for the older Type 22 frigates were being placed, one at Swan Hunter and the other at the troubled Cammell Laird yard on Merseyside.

The whole ship ordering programme has brought into focus the Government's ambitious plans for privatizing the shipyard industry, nationalized as part of British Shipbuilders in 1977. The Government's aim is to sell off all the yards individually by spring 1986.

The Yarrow yard on Clydeside, which made a profit of £11 million last year, became earlier this year the first big yard to be sold, for £34 million. The other yards are expected to follow soon.

The sale has attracted some controversy, but little beside month's proposals to privatize the royal dockyards at Devonport and Rosyth. The dockyards employ 20,000 people and have an annual turnover of £400 million.

Jonathan Davis
Business Correspondent

Newcomers to Portsmouth might be alarmed by the black clouds billowing up near the motorway. Could it be stubble-burning, a house on fire? Actually it is the Navy's fire-fighting and damage-control school, the Phoenix.

Several times a day trainee sailors are put through their paces on a mock-up ship, learning how to control fires.

The present trainer is a bit messy and the wood and diesel takes a bit of starting, but it will not be long before the school gets a "high-tech" simulator in which fires can be started at the press of a few buttons.

Phoenix is one of the Navy's 22 shore training establishments and schools. Their job, along with the five training ships, is becoming increasingly important as the Navy has to meet its Nato and South Atlantic commitments with fewer people.

At the same time high quality recruitment and training is needed to man the high technology ships, submarines and aircraft of today.

Following the proposals of the 1981 defence review the Government plans to reduce manpower to 54,000 by the early 1990s, a cut of 10,000. To man the ships the numbers of men employed ashore is to be cut by 25 per cent between 1981 to 1988, and a further 15 per cent by 1991.

To a large extent this is being

Young sailors get on course for tomorrow's fleet

done by reducing shore training time. So much so, in fact, that some senior officers are questioning the safety and efficiency of their ships. A recent court martial following the collision of a destroyer with a buoy resulted in a report highlighting the lack of bridge experience in the surface fleet.

which specializes in mine warfare, diving and seamanship. It will start to close next year, its functions to be gradually passed to the School of Maritime Operations at HMS Dryad a few miles away.

Captain Roger Heptinstall, the Navy's chief staff officer for training, says it is difficult to

measure the effects of the cuts. "You have to look at the whole picture, which depends on the intelligence of the man, whether he likes what he's doing, and the length of onshore training and at sea training."

He says that the quality of courses is better, and a lot of superfluous elements - such as sports days, or aircraft training for men who are never going to fly - are being dropped.

Some shore training establishments are closing, such as HMS Vernon in Portsmouth. It is the organ-

izational centre of a self-sustained training network spread across the country. The Navy has about 3,000 courses ranging from one week to several years. There are some 7,000 trainees at any one time. The annual cost is £160 million.

Ratings and WRNS (Women's Royal Naval Service) usually start at 16 at HMS Raleigh at Torpoint in Cornwall. They go through in eight weeks, at the rate of about 4,000 a year.

Artificers - of technicians - then go, on to schools to do their apprenticeships in weapons, marine or aircraft engineering, joining their first ship at 17. At 25 or 26 they can be chief petty officers.

Ordinary seamen who joined with lower qualifications or none at all will go on to schools to become mechanics, cooks, divers, gun operators or whatever.

HMS Collingwood, the school for weapon engineering, is the largest naval training establishment in western Europe. It is being rebuilt to provide modern buildings.

HMS Sultan, the marine engineering school, teaches officers and ratings all about the complicated machinery packed into a warship, ranging from diesel generators to the aircraft carrier Olympus version on the gas turbine engine used in Concorde.

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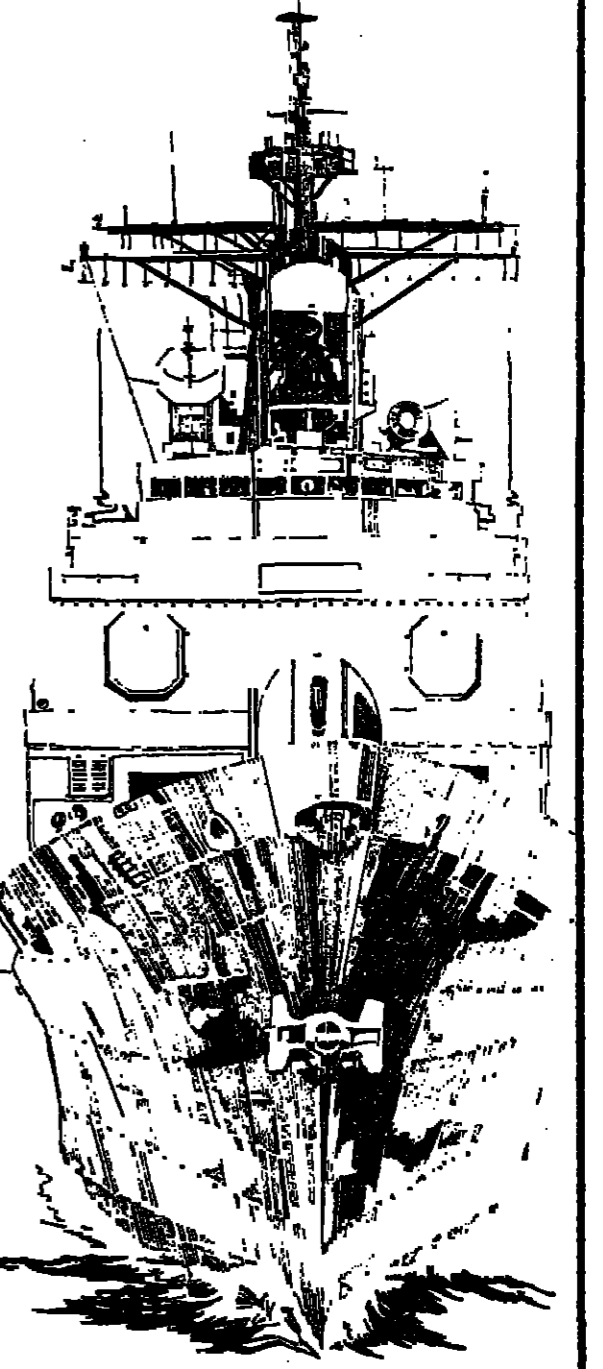
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FOCUS

THE ROYAL NAVY/8

The formidable fighting force



In its two centuries of existence The Times has, on the whole, been a more reliable friend of the Royal Navy than have politicians and even defence ministers.

Always a friend of the Senior Service. The Times has consistently emphasized Britain's essential role as a sea power

smaller ships, just as there will be pressures to build bigger ones, or more submarines, or more oil rig protection vessels. The need for more ballistic missile submarines... in the 1990s could further impinge upon conventional shipbuilding schedules.

Perhaps the most powerful argument that the Navy can deploy in resisting these pressures is that Nato can hardly afford to see the British fleet further diminished, either in overall size or the individual capability of its ships.

Sixty-five years later, with the decision taken not to build any more aircraft carriers, the Empire largely dismantled, and withdrawal about to be effected east of Suez The Times was still lecturing on the need for a strong conventional surface fleet.

And the time, it seems, has still not come. At least, it had not in April 1982, when the Task Force set sail to liberate the Falklands just as the Navy was being threatened with further savage economies.

And then, in 1977, when on her silver jubilee Queen Elizabeth II reviewed a somewhat smaller armada: "There is a temptation to over-sentimentalize about the Royal Navy. Big ships, like steam engines and the French Foreign Legion, have acquired an aura of romance which can cloud rational analysis... It is certainly possible to exaggerate the decline in British sea power.

In 1902 The Times was taking notice of Germany's intention to expand its navy, although the thundering columns were indicating that it was no cause for alarm. But an age-old lesson was restated: "We have no land frontier nearer than North America and Central Asia. Neither could be defended if our sea were overthrown."

The single most important strategic consideration in British defence policy is that we are an island off the continent of Europe. For centuries that insular proximity has made it necessary to blend a maritime and a continental strategy...

Alan Hamilton

JUNE, 1897 REVIEW OF THE FLEET BY THE PRINCE OF WALES. H.M.S. POWERFUL. SPT-HEAD, June 27. "I am commanded by the Prince of Wales, as representing the Queen, to express his entire satisfaction with the magnificent naval display at Spithead and the perfect manner in which all the arrangements were carried out, and at his request I order the maintenance to be splendid."

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How Rodney sank the French and established supremacy

Three years before The Times first appeared, Lord Rodney destroyed the French fleet in the West Indies, setting a seal on British maritime supremacy that remained unbroken for 160 years.

More importantly for the Royal Navy, he did so by deliberately breaking the rules of the Fighting Instructions, drafted to guide the mediocre and stiffen the irresolute. Thanks to Rodney initiative blossomed, not only in the long American Revolutionary and French wars, but during the even longer period of "peace" which followed.

its wartime size but what remained was vigorous, with commanders unafraid to assume responsibility, not just for Britain's interests but for those of Christendom.

The principles of British naval strategy had evolved during the 90 years leading up to the Battle of the Saints. The defence of the realm began at the enemy's coast, which was blockaded, to deter or give warning of his movements; behind the blockading squadrons lay the deterrent, the tactically unbeatable main fleet.

Britain's trade was carefully protected and the enemy's was harried. Squadrons in distant waters protected the colonial sources of supply and, if opportunity offered, seized those of the opposition: between 1795 and 1814, the West Indies colonies changed hands as usual and the Royal Navy took charge of places as far apart as Malta, Java and Cape Town and made an unsuccessful grab at Buenos Aires as well as supporting the only successful Army campaign, in the Iberian Peninsula.

One such scare, just five years after the Crimean War, led to the building of the "iron-clad" armoured battleship. The Warrior of 1861 rendered all the two and three-deck "wooden walls" obsolete virtually overnight. The Royal Navy, with larger numbers of these than anyone else, had most to lose but could not afford to allow the French to gain a technical lead.

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the biggest, fastest and most powerful battleship yet designed was built in one year: the battle fleet was recognized as the national deterrent to war and inventiveness was backed by industrial capacity and sufficient finance.

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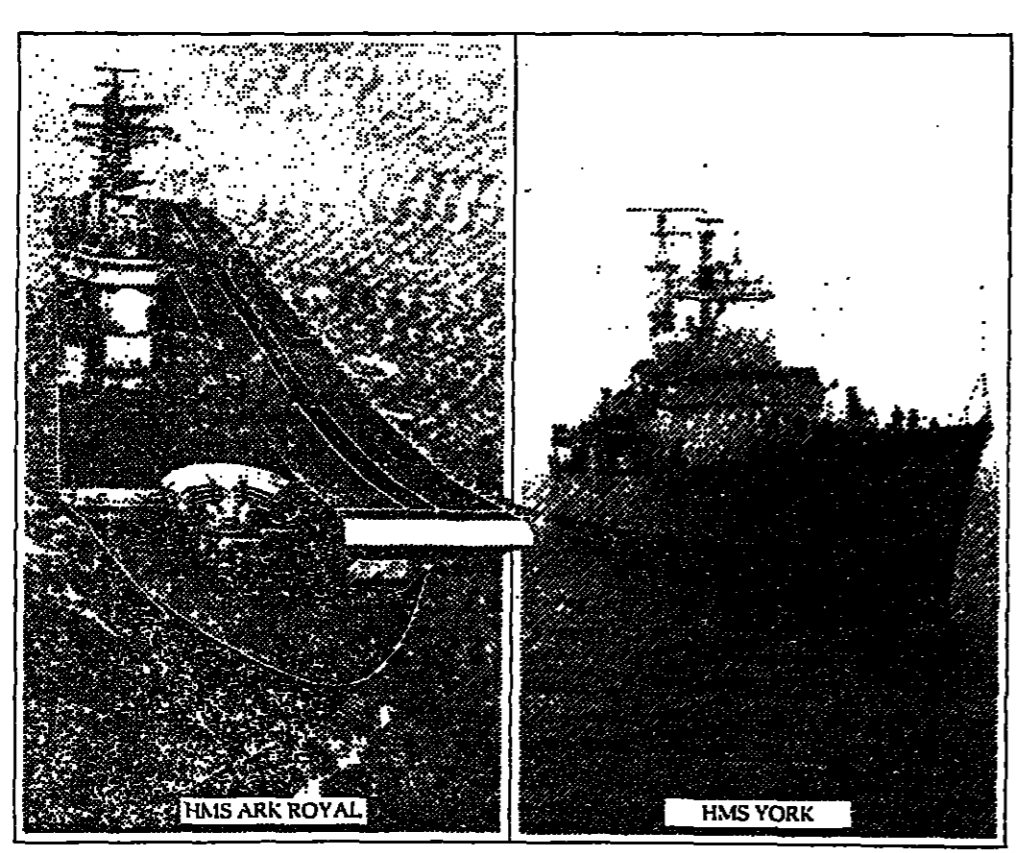
At a slightly lower level, his captains and their immediate successors might be less content. Their new-found initiative was allowed them even after the French war ended: the active fleet shrivelled to a fraction of

the biggest, fastest and most powerful battleship yet designed was built in one year: the battle fleet was recognized as the national deterrent to war and inventiveness was backed by industrial capacity and sufficient finance.

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